

Construction Work In City Set New Record During the Past Year

CONTRACTS AWARDED AND WORK FINISHED CONSTITUTE RECORD

Permits Issued, Together With Building Done That Required No Permit, Indicates \$1,250,000 Was Spent

216 PERMITS IN THE CITY PROPER OF THIS NUMBER 137 WERE FOR NEW HOMES.—Textile Plant and Two Bank Buildings Included.

In building activity the year closing today has been one of the greatest and most pronounced in the history of Concord, and in other lines 1923 has been a record year for this city, as shown by statistics covering civic improvements in many lines.

According to Frank B. Mund, city building inspector, contracts awarded and buildings completed during 1922 were valued at more than \$1,000,000, while improvements in various suburbs of the city, which are fed directly by the city, were made at a cost of another quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Mund stated that during the past year he has issued 216 building permits in the city proper, the value of the buildings to be erected being placed at \$949,570 by means applying for the permits. This total is far in excess of the 1922 total and is greater than any total since Mr. Mund has been in charge of the inspection work.

Of the total of 216 permits issued, Mr. Mund added further, 137 were for homes. This total of new homes is also in excess of the number issued in 1922, which was also a good construction year for Concord.

The remaining 79 permits issued by Mr. Mund were for various kinds of buildings, his records show. Included among the buildings were two new schools, one new church, a large addition to another church, several business houses in the business and other sections of the city, two handsome bank buildings and additions to several cotton mills.

The new high school building, which was started early in the present year, will cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000. The building was authorized in a bond election held more than a year ago. Another school authorized in this election is for colored children and this structure, erected at a cost of more than \$45,000, is also nearing completion. In addition to these two new buildings, a large addition, costing in the neighborhood of \$25,000 was erected at No. 2 primary. Early in the year the new primary building at Central Street was completed, but this work was continued for and almost completed in 1922 and it not included in the 1923 total.

The new home for the congregation of the First Baptist Church is included in the more prominent permits issued during the year. The church will be one of the largest and most complete in the city and has been under construction for several months. The building when completed will represent an expenditure of more than \$50,000.

A \$20,000 addition to the Forest Hill Methodist Church was completed this year. Plans for the handsome addition to the church were authorized in 1922, but they were not fulfilled until this year. The addition was erected primarily to afford more seating capacity in the church and to care for the rapidly growing Sunday School.

Atlanta Prisoners Make a Sensational Escape

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 31.—In the most sensational jail delivery in the history of the Atlanta federal penitentiary, four convicts, one a partner of Gerald Chapman, million dollar mail bandit, today were at liberty, having wormed their way to freedom through a narrow tunnel under fifty feet of concrete wall encircling the prison, late yesterday.

Of the quartet the most notorious is George Anderson, who was serving a 25 year sentence for participation in the million dollar New York mail robbery for which Chapman was also convicted. Anderson is thought to have engineered the escape. Chapman escaped several months ago.

Three of the men were thought early today to be in hiding near Macon, Ga. With Anderson were Hiram Lepper, sentenced in Baltimore in 1914 for fifteen years; Ludwig Schmitt, a German sailor, sentenced in Rochester, N. Y., to serve 10 years for mail robbery; and Frank Haynes, sentenced in Chattanooga, Tenn., to serve 18 months.

Warden Sartain declared he had received information that Anderson planned to escape and had had him closely watched. The tunnelled from the center of a small tent in the prison tubercular zone to a point 50 or more feet away, and outside the big stone wall.

CATCHER COMMUNITY QUIET DURING DAY Following Race Riot Which Took Place There Last Yesterday.

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 31.—Quiet prevailed today in the Catcher community, twenty miles from this city, where a race riot late yesterday resulted in the serious wounding of one negro and the arrest of eleven others, as the aftermath of the killing last Friday of Mrs. Robert Latimer. Ten of the negroes arrested are being held in jail at Van Buren on charges of night riders.

The two negroes, Spurgeon Ruck and William Betts, charged with killing Mrs. Latimer, are in jail at Little Rock. Circuit court officials were preparing today for a special term of court which will convene Wednesday for trial of Betts and Ruck. Both men have waived preliminary examination and the cases will be taken up by special grand jury Wednesday.

PROMINENT COTTON MAN OF GREENSBORO DEAD

B. S. Robertson Died Sunday Night in Norfolk Hospital, After Undergoing Treatment.

Greensboro, Dec. 31.—B. S. Robertson, one of the best known cotton men in this section, died Sunday night in a hospital in Norfolk, Va., where he had been under treatment. He had been engaged in the cotton business here for a number of years. He will be buried at Norfolk on Wednesday, according to word received here by friends and business associates.

GATLING'S HIDING PLACE IS NOT YET KNOWN Man Charged With Double Murder Has Not Been Located by Officers.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 31.—No trace of Lawrence Gatling, who Saturday night, it is alleged, shot and killed his wife and Owen Stevens, has not been found this morning, according to police officials. Police of nearby towns have been requested to be on the lookout for the man.

Birthdays Party.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE SAYS KESTLER STILL HAS CHANCE

The Civil Service Commission may have little to do with the appointment of a postmaster at Concord, judging by a story which appeared in the last issue of the Concord Observer, weekly newspaper published here by Mr. G. E. Kestler, one of the seven Republicans who is seeking the local postmastership. The commission in a recent letter to the editor of The Daily Tribune announced that one of three men to be certified by it would be appointed by President Coolidge, but the article in The Observer denies this and states that the Republican executive committee really holds the balance of power and that no candidate who has not been endorsed by the committee can be appointed, regardless of any action of the commission.

Mr. Kestler was not among the three men certified by the commission. The men certified are John L. Miller, William B. Ward and J. S. Neal, but in the article in The Observer it was stated that Mr. Kestler still has a chance to get the appointment.

The writer of the article goes fully into the facts as he sees them, declaring that fifty-three members of the executive committee endorsed Mr. Kestler while only one endorsed Mr. Ward and none endorsed the other candidates. The Civil Service Commission, the article states further, chooses three men, but the commission acts only as a helper to the President who wants to get facts about all candidates before making a selection. Any candidate to get the appointment, it is stated, must have the endorsement of a majority of the executive committee, and Mr. Kestler was the only candidate to get such endorsement.

The Observer article follows: The Civil Service Commission at Washington asked for applicants for postmaster for the vacancy to exist at Concord, N. C., January 28, 1924. Seven men and one lady put in their applications, viz: J. L. Miller, present Democratic postmaster; S. S. Neal, assistant postmaster; W. B. Ward, J. F. Harris, G. E. Kestler, Mrs. H. S. Williams, Thomas Smith and W. L. Robbins.

Later this commission announced that Miller, Ward and Neal got on. To be postmaster at Concord now the Republican executive committee, composed of eighty-five members, five from each precinct, according to the Republican plan of organization, must endorse some candidate, or in other words, the winner must have forty-three signatures, or a majority of the committee. With this the state chairman, Mr. Bramham, will name the man. Without these signatures no one can be appointed.

Mr. Kestler has the signed and written endorsement of fifty-three of these members or ten more than is needed, Mr. Ward has one. The county chairman cannot comment any one until a majority of the committee orders him to do so, and of course he does not want to do so as his wife is an applicant.

Now the issue is, does the Republican committee want Mr. Miller, Mr. Ward or Mr. Neal? If it does not then there will be no postmaster appointed from the selections of the Civil Service Commission as it now stands. This would force Mr. Miller, or Mr. Ward, or Mr. Neal to withdraw from the race and then three names from the other applicants would be put before the committee. What three stood the highest among the other five is not known as the commission keeps secret its rating.

If the fifty-three who signed the petition of G. E. Kestler stick by their choice against Mr. Miller, Mr. Neal and Mr. Ward then he can be appointed, if others withdraw, and he gets his proper rating. He asks his friends to allow their signed endorsements to stand as given.

The plan of organization, the word of the State chairman and all the rules and regulations are back of this position. In fact that puts postmasters under the Civil Service Commission, Mr. Coolidge has recommended this as a law but it has not yet been offered in Congress. Until it does pass he can appoint whom he pleases as postmaster. Still by a former order he asks that the commission hold these examinations as a matter of information to him but there is no law about it. But under these orders, which we are now under, no one can be appointed until the Republican committee, eighty-five strong, approves some one, or a majority of this committee, forty-three, and fifty-three have endorsed Kestler.

Auxiliary to Meet.

An inspirational meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church will be held in the church this evening at 7:30 o'clock. At this time pictures will be shown representing the missionary interests and enterprises throughout the world. These pictures are very entertaining and interesting, and the public, especially the young folks of the town, is cordially invited to be present.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Brumley and Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Deaton, of near Mooresville, visited the Jackson Training School and friends in Concord this week.

AMERICANS WOUNDED BY CHINESE BANDIT

One Missionary, Mrs. Juliana Kilen, Was Captured by the Bandits, Who Also Wounded Two Others.

CHINESE OFFER HEAVY REWARD For the Capture of Bandits and Release of Mrs. Kilen.—Were Forced to Leave Mission Work.

Pekin, Dec. 31 (By the Associated Press).—Followers of the notorious bandit leader Lao Yao Jen, captured an American missionary, Mrs. Juliana Kilen, and wounded two other missionaries, Prof. Bernhard Hoff and Mrs. Hoff, in a raid on the town of Tsaoyang in the northern Hupei province, near the border town of Siangyang, according to advices received here today.

The American legation has taken active steps to bring about the capture of the brigands and the liberation of Mrs. Kilen. The Chinese government has offered a bounty for the capture, dead or alive, of the bandit leader.

The three missionaries are representatives of the church of the Lutheran Brethren of the United States and were conducting a mission when the town was raided. Warned of the activities of the bandits in that vicinity by the Tsuchin, or military governor of the province, they had vacated their station and embarked on a river craft for safety before the raid. Later, however, on receiving assurances from the Governor that the bandits had been suppressed, they returned.

AMERICANS GOING TO HELM IN CARLOAD LOTS That's What Billy Sunday Tells His Charlotte Audience, Raps Foreign Immigrants.

Charlotte, Dec. 30.—This afternoon Mr. Sunday said, "The man who buys whiskey from a bootlegger is just as bad as the bootlegger, he is as black as he can be."

Speaking of apostolic succession, he said: "If there's anything that makes me tired it is talk about apostolic succession. Henry the Eighth of England, was a Roman Catholic. He wanted to divorce his wife and marry another woman, and the pope wouldn't let him, so he organized a church of which he was the head, calling it the church of England, or Episcopal church."

Mr. Sunday's text tonight was "Thou Art Weighed in the Balances and Found Wanting." In describing Balshazzar's feast, he said, "that was no common lager beer, pretzel, weinerwurst blowout, that was a bunch of high rollers who went to the feast."

Referring to America's revels and feast, he said, "America is making money by the bucketfuls, but we are going to hell in car lots on excursion rates, the lying for money, the hoarding of money, the envy of money, the adultery for money, is sending America to hell."

In reference to breaking the Sabbath he said, "we have stepped out early and his wife and family are rushing to get down in hell." There has been a fearful falling down in this country in 25 years and foreign immigration is largely responsible.

TWIN BOY ACCIDENTALLY KILLS HIS LITTLE BROTHER Little Charles Moore Shoots Brother With Shotgun at Wilson Home.

Wilson, Dec. 29.—Funeral services over the remains of Master Charles, the seven-year-old twin son of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Moore—who was accidentally killed by his twin brother, Doyle, while playing with a loaded .44 shot gun Friday afternoon, was conducted from his late home on West Nash Street this afternoon by Rev. E. W. Baxter, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The remains were interred in Maplewood cemetery beneath a mound of fragrant flowers.

GOOD PROGRESS MADE IN ERADICATING THE TICK

Under the Zone Plan Legalized by the Last Legislature.

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—We are making good progress in eradicating the tick from eastern North Carolina under the zone plan legalized for us by the last General Assembly," said Dr. William Moore, chief of veterinary work for North Carolina State College and the State Department of Agriculture, in a statement issued today. "On our recommendation the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture has released Bortie, Camden, Gates, Hertford, Perquimans and portions of Dare the Benefactor counties from quarantine. This was made effective on and after December 31st by order No. 285 of the bureau of animal industry and signed by Secretary Wallace.

"We will be ready to begin work in zone two beginning with the new year. Last year, at the height of our work in the first zone, we have about 75 men employed as inspectors, range riders and supervising veterinarians. The government furnished us experienced veterinarians to supervise the work in each county and with the exception of a few herds of cattle on some local farms and some other wild or semi-wild animals in the swamps the first zone has about been cleaned up.

"Besides cleaning up the tick in those counties released from quarantine, Dr. Moore said, he and his co-workers had found it necessary also to clean up large areas that had been infested due to ticks coming back from infested counties. He said, however, that the tick will be pushed into the sea within three years of the people will cooperate in the movement. Fourteen counties infested with the tick remain in eastern North Carolina.

In carrying on the work this year in zone one 389 dipping vats were built and 7,684 herds of cattle containing 22,628 head, were dipped, said Dr. Moore.

THE COTTON MARKET There Was Renewal of Realizing Today.—Opened at Decline.

New York, Dec. 31.—There was a renewal of realizing or liquidation in the cotton market today and after opening steady at a decline of 2 to 12 points, the active months sold 25 to 35 points lower, with March declining to 33.05, about 23 January notices were reported, and January was relatively easy. General business was comparatively quiet, and the market seemed sensitive to selling orders owing to the absence of any aggressive support.

Cotton futures opened easy, Jan. 34.85; March 35.28; May 35.40; July 34.55; Oct. 28.75.

BAILEY DECIDES TO PUT OFF ANNOUNCEMENT Will Abide by Request of Chairman of Democratic State Executive Committee.

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—(By the Associated Press).—Josiah Bailey, prospective candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1924, will not announce his candidacy for the present, he said here today. Mr. Bailey's statement was made after he had received a dispatch carried in the morning paper in which Chairman John G. Dawson urged prospective candidates to make a short campaign for the nomination, as this would be for the best interests of the party in the State.

Mr. Bailey also made public a letter which he had addressed to Mr. Dawson as chairman of the Democratic executive committee in which he acquiesced in Mr. Dawson's desire for postponement of announcements, but in which he stated he had been prepared to announce himself as a candidate today. Mr. Bailey stated that "I have the utmost regard for Mr. Dawson and I shall endeavor to meet his wishes. I am sure my friends will realize that I am acting prudently under the circumstances."

Methodist Preacher Gives \$600 to Pay Church Debts.

Winston-Salem, Dec. 28.—Rev. J. S. Hiatt, pastor of Burkhead Methodist church, today moved the members and friends of the Hiatt Memorial M. E. church congregation a most unique Christmas present in a check for \$600 which completely liquidates the indebtedness on the church building and will make possible unhampered progress during the new year.

The church was completed a year ago and named in honor of Rev. Mr. Hiatt, under whose direction it was built.

The Black Forest of Germany, which has long been famous for its profusion of grottoes, has been virtually stripped of its foliage and furry denizens by hungry Germans.

WHAT SAT'S BEAR SAYS.

Rain tonight, colder in west and central portions; Tuesday rain, probably changing to snow in west and central portions, much colder Tuesday and Wednesday night, cold wave in west portion.

BEST WISHES for 1924 Arrange Your Personal Schedule to Allow Time for Many Good Deeds.

New Year's Greeting From the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce wishes you a happy New Year. Remember us in your New Year's resolution. "There has never been a time in the History of America when a Chamber of Commerce program was as necessary as it is today. Whoever co-operates in that direction is a real asset to the Nation"—Warren G. Harding. The year 1923 has gone. You cannot recall it, but you can profit by your past experience. The past year was a success from most every angle and to show a gain next year will be constant hard work. The Chamber has a plan to make this year 1924 the greatest in the history of Concord, but you must help, must pull together, for there is only one pull that counts and that's the Pull Together. Make it your business to boost your city and its people. Another good resolution: I will SUPPORT the Chamber of Commerce.