

Fly-Wheel In Basement Of Selwyn Explodes, Tearing Hole in Floor

Miraculous Escape From Death of Three Men in Engine Room. Fortunately no One in Lobby Was Struck.

Governor Flew Off While Ice Plant was Being In- stalled. Loss, Includ- ing Smashed China, is About \$3500.

Charlotte News, April 30.
Spinning around at the terrific speed of about 3,000 revolutions a minute, uncontrollable because its governor had worn off, the eight-foot fly-wheel of the ice plant in the basement of the Selwyn Hotel exploded this morning at 9 o'clock, and part of it tore its furious way through the eight-inch concrete floor of the lobby, and, after effecting entrance there, continued to leap twenty feet higher to the ceiling, tearing off one large chunk of stucco and leaving the impression of its angry fist in another place, in addition to smashing the five globes of a fan electric light chandelier.

Shortly before, the orchestra of Mr. Don A. Richardson had left its station in the north end of the lobby near the dining room doors, and to this fact is due the miracle that there was no loss of life in this part of the hotel. There was wild consternation for a moment or two, and the people in the lobby scurried to a distance from the scene of the accident, of which luckily, there had been fair warning of what was coming in the wild whirl of the huge driver soundings up from the cavernous regions below.

Three Men's Miraculous Escape.

The greatest marvel of the mishap is that the three men in the ice plant basement, who were installing new machinery, escaped unscathed—absolutely without a scratch. And this, in spite of the fact that the big iron spokes of the splintered driving wheel were hurled in every direction. Like the fabled three geese in a flock,

"One flew east, one flew west,
And one flew over the cuckoo's nest."

The three men were Mr. F. M. Aday, of Chicago, who was installing the new plant for Fred K. Wolfe & Co., of Chicago; Chief Engineer Ed. Putnam, of the Selwyn, and a colored man, who was assisting. The latter was down under the engine holding an electric light attached to a long cord. This cord is responsible for the disaster. It became tangled in the governor of the fly-wheel, the governor belt was displaced, and the wheel began its destruction-breathing revolutions. Twice during this time Mr. Aday walked around the hissing death trap, closing two valves, pushing up the balls that weighted the governor, in his effort to stop the machinery. He had finally sent for a monkey wrench, the best hope, as there was no throttle wheel whereby he might stop the machinery. Mr. Putnam was within ten feet of the fly-wheel, also, when it burst. It is remarkable how they all escaped.

Handsome China Smashed.

The greatest loss is perhaps that sustained by the handsome china closet of the hotel. Manager Lightfoot estimates the total loss at \$3,500, the bulk of which is charged against the smashing of the china ware. The loss to the ice machinery is about \$1,000 or \$1,500. Mr. Lightfoot wired Mr. Wood at Boston about the catastrophe.

A throng of people entered the lobby to see the results of the explosion. Three heavy pieces of broken fly-wheel lay upon the floor, circled by concrete debris. One of the big fragments must have weighed 200 pounds and the other two about 200 each. A gunny sack had been thrown over the big, ugly gaping wound in the floor, large enough for a man's body, where the lid had flown off. The piano top that covers the keyboard had a big dent in just above the piano stool, so luckily vacant when the crash came. The ivory keys were out of alignment, and the keyboard looked like a mouthful of teeth that had been knocked loose in a rough and tumble fight.

On hearing the sound of the explosion Mr. Jeff Cole, of Danville, Va., representing the Westbrook Machine Company, who was at work on the elevator machinery, rushed into the engine room. He was almost overcome by the strong fumes of ammonia and turned to go out the door he had just entered but being unable to open his eyes he lost his way and

but for knocking down a door would have been overcome and rendered unconscious. With difficulty he made his way out into fresh air which revived him.

Cause of the Accident.

When asked the cause of the accident Mr. Aday said to a News representative:

"One of the workmen, in attaching an electric wire allowed it to get tangled up with the governor of the engine and this of course caused the governor belt to run off and allow the engine to run away. I was in the engine room at the time and at once shut off the ammonia from the machine and sent a messenger after a wrench to turn the throttle which he finally got and commenced shutting off the throttle but before I could do this the engine had gained such speed that the fly-wheel went to pieces, going around at such a terrific speed."

The throttle of the engine by actual measurement is not more than three or four feet which nearness makes Mr. Aday's escape more miraculous. He said later that when he realized the wheel was gaining speed every second and that it would burst unless the messenger hurried back with the wrench, he tried to but that it had gained such a speed it was impossible. The proper means regulate the governor with his hands of stopping the engine was the throttle wheel but this had been broken sometime ago and had never been replaced. A mere turn of the wheel had it been there would have stopped the engine in a giffy.

The refrigerating plant has been installed since Harvey & Wood opened the hotel at a cost of \$6,000. It was the best of its kind manufactured.

A Frightened Crowd.

Mr. Sam Pegram, head clerk, was, perhaps, the first man in the lobby to be warned of the accident. He was behind the counter when the first sound of the rumbling noise reached his ears. The floor shook and slowly began to rise and before he had time to think just what to do, give the alarm or run for his life, there was an explosion that hurried a shower of cement and gravel over the entire north wing of the lobby.

Just as a News reporter arrived on the scene several men came rushing down the steps with their coats unbuttoned, followed by nervous women, bell boys and a dozen of maids. In the street and in the back lot behind the hotel stood a number of servants of several nationalities talking excitedly in their own tongues, like the folks at the Tower of Babel, and running here and there trying to escape the fumes of ammonia pouring through the basement windows from a tank containing 300 pounds. Mr. Aday, passing by them, was asked if there was going to be any more "blow-up" and when assured that there was not, the foreigners, holding their noses, crept back into the kitchen.

Many incidents, amusing now in view of no lost lives, are told by the guests of the hotel in the spirit of a joke, some of them of course exaggerated. Mr. Don Richardson was breakfasting near Mr. D. A. Tompkins. When the explosion came the Professor reached for a window, and frantically rubbed up the glass, in an effort to raise it. Mr. Tompkins was wanting out at the same exit, impatiently shoving Richardson aside, he said: "Good land man, let me show you how to hoist it," and began making sidewise passes over the glass.

Dr. E. C. Register was just entering the lobby when the explosion occurred. He made one leap from the cigar stand to the door, one more to the sidewalk and two across the street to the tall building on the other side, thence up to the third floor whence he looked out a window to see if any of the hotel was left.

Died With Secret.

New Orleans, April 30.—With several stab wounds about his body, a man was found in a dying condition here today by a man who was awakened by several men quarrelling in the front of his store. Near the man was found a black cloth mask. The man was unable to speak when found and died in a few minutes afterwards.

A letter on the body was identified as that of Giuseppe Squatrato, an Italian.

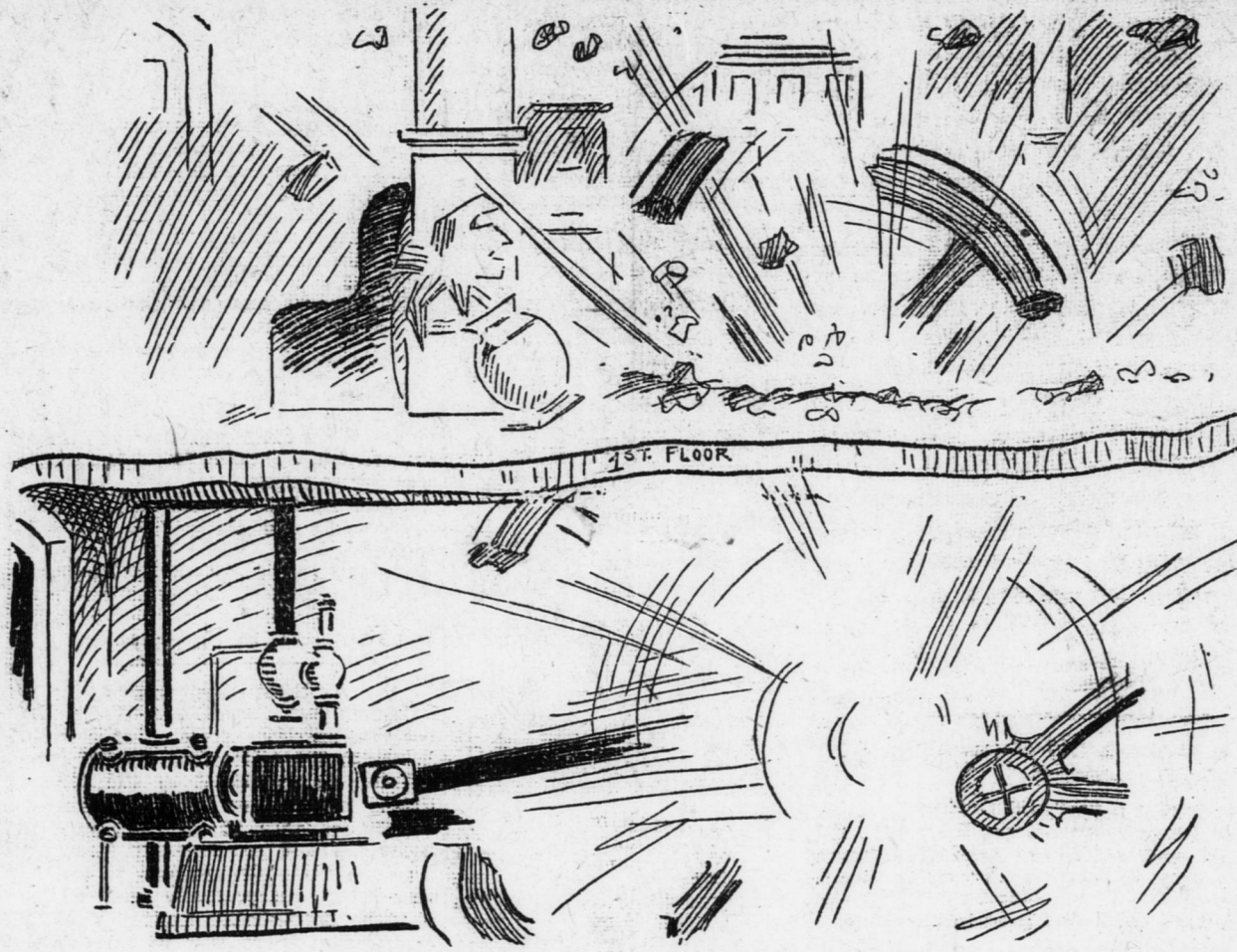
Much Interest in Funeral.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—The funeral of Mrs. Madzhda Baradia, the well known revolutionist, who committed suicide abroad, aroused the greatest interest in revolutionary circles on account of her romantic history.

Tornado Struck Covington, Tenn. Last Night

Memphis, Tenn., April 30.—Meagre reports have been received by the Commercial-Appel from Covington, Tenn., of a tornado which struck that place last night, causing considerable damage, but so far as ascertained, no lives were lost.

Two compresses were unroofed and the Illinois Central depot was badly damaged.



The Accident at the Selwyn Hotel This Morning in Which a Fly-Wheel Crashed Through the First Floor Into the Lobby.

Thousands Ask For Pardon

The President, After Re- ceiving Petitions Con- taining Names of Thou- sands of Persons, Asks Pardon for January.

Washington, D. C., April 30.—The President in a note to the Department of Justice expresses the opinion that John William January, of Missouri, should have his sentence commuted at once, or be pardoned outright. January was convicted some years ago of robbing a postoffice in Oklahoma, and served the greater portion of a five year sentence at Leavenworth.

He then escaped, and after nine years liberty was re-arrested in Kansas City and returned to prison. Many petitions reached the President asking for his pardon.

He had lived in Kansas City under the name of Charles W. Anderson during the time he was at liberty. Senator Warner presented to the President a statement containing the synopsis of the petitions signed by 2,500 persons.

He also told the President there was a petition circulating in Missouri already signed by 37,000 persons asking for January's pardon.

January in Dark

Leavenworth, Kans., April 30.—Until official news from Washington, Warden McLaughrey, of the Federal penitentiary will not communicate with William January, or Anderson regarding any steps taken in the case.

When January was returned to the penitentiary he was assigned as helper in the laundry. He is considered a model prisoner.

Langhorne-Gaff Wedding.

Washington, D. C., April 30.—Fashionable society folk of Washington and a number of guests from out of town filled St. John's Church at noon today at the wedding of Miss Zaidee Gaff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Gaff, and Dr. Cary Langhorne, U. S. N. The bride has as her attendant maids her cousins, Miss Rachel and Miss Mary Holmes of Cincinnati, Miss Marion Oliver, daughter of the Assistant Secretary of War, and Miss Mary Sutherland. The wedding ceremony was followed by a reception and breakfast at the Gaff home.

The bride made her debut about two years ago and is one of the heiresses of the capital. Dr. Langhorne, the bridegroom, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Langhorne of this city, and a cousin of the Langhorne sisters of Virginia, two of whom are Mrs. Waldorf Astor and Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson.

Bishop Gallagher's Anniversary.

Galveston, Texas, April 30.—Today was the twenty-fifth anniversary of Bishop Gallagher's elevation to the episcopate and during the day many messages of felicitation were received at the bishop's residence. Bishop Gallagher is a native of Ohio and occupied pulpits in Cincinnati and Columbus prior to his being chosen bishop of Galveston.

Attempt Made to Kill President Cabrera

Guatemala City, Guatemala, April 30.—An attempt was made on the life of President Estrada Cabrera. While out driving a dynamite bomb was exploded near his carriage, killing the horses and wounding General Orellana, chief of staff.

The calmness of the president, who was not injured, was universally commended, and the would-be assassins are condemned on all sides.

MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Much Interest Over Music Festival This Week.

Raleigh, N. C., April 30.—The keenest interest centers in the great May music festival to be held in Raleigh Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week under the auspices of the Raleigh Choral Society, when the famous New York Symphony Club, Walter Damrosch, conductor and a number of noted special artists will appear with the best talent of the Capitol City, including a special children's chorus of 250 voices and the Choral Society of over 100 voices. The management is being notified daily of special parties that are being made up in other towns of the state to come to one or another of the concerts. The local management is headed by Prof. Wade R. Brown of the music department of the Baptist University for Women. That it will be the greatest musical event in the history of Raleigh is assured.

The two battalions of the A. & M. College, consisting of five companies and the band, gave a most creditable public drill last afternoon around capital square under command of Commandant Young. There were hundreds of spectators. There was a special review by Governor Glenn, Adjutant General Robertson and Gen. C. A. Woodruff.

100,000 People Are Driven from Home

Odessa, April 30.—One hundred thousand people are estimated to have been driven from their homes by the overflowing of the Dnieper, Dniester and Dvina.

The inundations have caused extreme distress over an enormous area.

INSURANCE MAN ARRESTED.

Is Charged With Forging Signatures of Policy Holders.

New York, April 30.—Jacob Frank, an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company, in this city, was arrested, charged with forgery in the third degree in connection with the recent election of the directors of that company.

It is alleged the signatures of policy holders on some of the ballots cast were forged. Frank claims to have had permission from 50 or 60 of these policy holders to sign their names to the ballots.

Charters Granted.

Raleigh, N. C., April 30.—The secretary of state charters the Williamson Light and Power Company, of Williamson, at a capital of \$50,000 by J. D. Biggs and others; also Grover Mercantile Company of Cleveland County, at a capital of \$6,000 by T. R. Keeler and others.

False Appropriations.

Washington, April 30.—According to the volume on appropriations made, new offices created, etc., during the last session of Congress which has just been completed the total appropriation for the session was \$920,798, 143.

Revolutionary Movement Grows More Serious

Vienna, April 30.—The revolutionary movement in Montenegro, where the military government has been proclaimed and armed bands are reported to be marching on the capital, is assuming a serious character, according to dispatches arriving here.

An uprising, attributed largely to the alleged attempts of Prince Nicholas to override the constitution which he bestowed on the country in 1905, and to the incessant drain on the public purse.

The Prince is accused of utilizing the taxes and other state funds to swell his private banking account.

Two Killed At Norlina

In Collision Between Through Freight And Yard Engine Two Men Were Killed. Consider- able Damage Done.

Raleigh, N. C., April 30.—In a collision early this morning between a freight and a yard engine, on the Seaboard Air Line at Norlina, Engineer Efferman, of Petersburg, and Fireman B. F. Johnson of the through freight were killed.

Both engines were badly smashed and the main line was blocked for several hours.

The yard engine was just passing off the main line when the through train crashed into it's side.

Kindergartners at Work.

New York, April 30.—More than 1,000 delegates, coming from almost every State in the Union, Australia, Canada and several other countries, were present today at the opening of the fourteenth annual convention of the International Kindergarten Union. Mrs. Ada Marean Hughes presided over the initial session.

The convention is to continue until the end of this week and from all indications it will be the most successful and profitable ever held by the organization. Among the speakers to be heard are Dr. Felix Adler, founder of the Ethical Culture Society; Hamilton Wright Mable, editor of the Outlook; Arthur Dow, head of the art department of Teachers' College; Miss Susan E. Blow of New York; Miss Laura Fisher of Boston; Miss Geraldine O'Grady of Brooklyn; Miss Bertha Payne of Chicago; Mme. Kraus-Boelte of New York and Miss Nina Vanderwalker of Milwaukee.

Sons of the American Revolution.

Denver, Colo., April 30.—The national society, Sons of the American Revolution, began its annual congress in this city today and will remain in session until Friday. The society, which is devoted to the inculcation of patriotism among the people, includes many men of note in its membership, among them President Roosevelt, Admiral Dewey, former Vice-President Levi P. Morton, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge and Gen. Nelson A. Miles, Horace Porter, S. B. Buckner and Fred D. Grant. A dinner at which addresses will be delivered by a number of noted speakers is one of the principal features of the convention program.

Rates on Cotton Piece Goods.

Washington, D. C., April 30.—The Interstate Commerce Commission today gave a hearing in the case of the Warren Manufacturing Company and others of Warrenville, S. C., against the Southern and other railroads. The question involved in the case is that of rates on cotton piece goods from South Carolina and Georgia points to New York.

Provisional Tariff Plan.

Berlin, April 30.—The Federal Council passed the German-American provisional tariff arrangement.

18 Buildings Swept By Fire at Leesville

Leesville, La., April 30.—Fire started in the Regal Hotel and spread rapidly, destroying 18 buildings, in which were located 25 business firms, including the First National Bank, and Leesville National Bank.

The loss is estimated at between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Police Think They Have Two Negroes who Made Murderous Tour Sat.

MANY NEGRO ROWS AT STATESVILLE

Statesville, April 30.—Tom Merrideth, colored, was shot and probably fatally injured Saturday night about 11:30 o'clock by Lillie Chambers also colored. The woman is the wife of Lawson Chambers, but is separated from her husband. It is said that since she and Lawson parted some time ago Merrideth had paid her considerable attention. Merrideth had also been paying some attention to a young widow, Josie White, who resides in Salisbury, and the Chambers woman had become extremely jealous.

The Salisbury woman came to Statesville on Saturday presumably to see Merrideth and the negroes say this greatly enraged the Chambers woman. Saturday night she went to the home of Clay Gaither, colored, near the railroad crossing east of the depot, with whom Merrideth lives, and called Merrideth out. A few minutes later a pistol shot was heard and when the neighbors rushed out they found Merrideth with a bullet hole in his back, just below the shoulder blades.

Meta Gabriel, colored, wife of Gus Gabriel, who died a short time ago, and Henry Owens, also colored, engaged in a row at the home of the woman on Greene street, near the colored graded school, Saturday night. The woman rushed on Owens and he ran, taking refuge under a house. She pulled him out and gave him a number of blows as he ran off. At a point on Walker street Owens turned on the woman and knocked her down, after which they became reconciled and returned to the home of the woman. They were arrested by the police on Sunday and in the mayor's court yesterday morning each was fined \$2.50 and one half the costs, \$5.10.

Tom Stevenson, colored, who was recently released from the insane asylum at Goldsboro, went to Salisbury Saturday and came back that night drunk and crazy. He attacked Clara Seahorn, his aunt, with whom he lived, with a knife and cut an ugly gash in the woman's thigh. He was arrested Sunday afternoon, but was released yesterday morning on account of his mental condition and at the request of the injured relative. An effort will be made to get the man in the asylum again.

Mr. J. S. Longfellow, of Baltimore, a traveling salesman for the Armour Fertilizer Company, has decided to make Statesville his headquarters and is now spending his vacation here. He is stopping at Mrs. Mitchell's boarding house, on Davie street.

Mr. H. L. Meacham, a freight conductor who runs between Monroe and Spencer, spent several days with his brother, Mr. F. T. Meacham, leaving yesterday for Charlotte.

Mr. George R. Watkins, of Mitchell County, is spending a few days with Superintendent Meacham at the State farm.

Heroic Men Undertake Fearful Task of Rescue

Johnstown, Pa., April 30.—"Still alive," is the report brought to the surface by the rescuing party trying to reach the seven men who have been imprisoned in the mine at Foustwell.

A Daring Undertaking.

At 12:30 four men started into the mine in an effort to reach their unfortunate colleagues. They were forced to wade and in a crouching position as the passage was but four feet in height.

There was sufficient room between the water and the roof to give clear space for the men's heads. One of the four was a brother of the foreman who is one of the unfortunates.

Slung across the shoulders of the rescuers were air tight cans carrying drinking water and nourishment in a liquid form.

Wading up to their necks in black and muddy water these crawling and stopping, will have a mile to traverse before reaching the heading where the prisoners are said to be located.

Through the dark tunnels their way can be found only by feeling along the rough walls, as lights cannot be used for fear of gas explosions.

The party was sent in for fear that the unfortunates would attempt to come out in their enfeebled condition and meet with further accidents.

At the mouth of the mine is a crowd of men ready to follow the four that have already started.

Norfolk Chief of Police Announces Authorities Have Arrested Two Negro Highwaymen who Committed Murder.

Three Women Are Held as Accessories to Crime. One Negro Makes a Partial Confession. Blames Lassiter.

Norfolk, Va., April 30.—The chief of police announced his department had captured two negro highwaymen who made a murderous tour across Berkley ward, of Norfolk Saturday night, resulting in the death of one man, with two or three others assaulted still lingering between life and death.

The alleged assassins are William McIntosh and Tom Lassiter, who were arrested together with Helen Fisher, Lucy Jones and Irene Williams, the women being held as accessories. McIntosh has made a confession in which he says Lassiter was the man who operated with him, and while admitting his own participation in the crimes, attempts to throw most of the blame upon Lassiter.

First in the Field.

Davenport, Ia., April 30.—Quietly and without bands or banners the first candidate to make the race for President of the United States in 1908 will be nominated here tomorrow. It is the date set for the national convention of the United Christian party. William R. Benkert of this city, chairman of the national executive committee, expects delegates to be on hand from a number of States. They will meet at the watch tower, a pleasure resort near Rock Island. So far there has been little or no discussion as to candidates, the selection being left entirely to the convention.

The United Christian party was founded twelve years ago and has had presidential tickets in the field in the last two presidential elections. The party advocates government according to the golden rule. At one time it urged the removal of the national capitol from Washington to the government island in the Mississippi river opposite Davenport, on which the Rock Island arsenal is situated.

FRUIT AL KILLED.

State of Iowa Clad in Thick Mantle of Snow—No Hope for the Fruit Crop.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 30.—Snow covers the entire State of Iowa from a depth of three to eight inches. In Des Moines and Central Iowa, it is eight inches, according to the government report.

Interviews with leading horticulturists indicate all small fruit irrevocably killed.

Gov. Grants Pardons. Other Raleigh News

Raleigh, N. C., April 30.—Governor Glenn has granted pardons for A. D. Hood and W. W. Gilbert, who were officers in South Carolina and came across the line into Union county to arrest a fugitive from justice, having to kill the man, as they declared, in self defense. Having no right to come into this State to make an arrest they were held to be at least technically guilty of manslaughter, although they would not have been had they been North Carolina officers.

They were sentenced in Union county last October and the pardon is at the request of the trial judge and the solicitor and of the governor of South Carolina, who assures Governor Glenn that the two men were excellent officers and were acting as they thought according to law.

Pardons are also granted for Archie Wilkes, serving five years from Caldwell county for larceny, pardon being on account of ill-health. He has consumption.

Cager Arrington serving two years from Halifax county for disposing of mortgaged property, pardoned because he has consumption.

Governor Glenn refuses a pardon for Newt Mehaffey, who was sentenced in Graham county to serve two years for larceny. The governor says he thinks the punishment is not excessive.

State Auditor Dixon left today for Goldsboro and Kinston to look into official business connected with the assessment of bank stock and other corporation assets liable to state tax direct.

R. D. W. Connor went today to Kenansville, where he delivers the address for the closing of the James Sprunt Institute. He will also go to Wilmington for the unveiling of the Cornelius Harnett monument.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Joyner left for La Grange and Kinston to deliver educational addresses. He will be out of the city until May 4th.