

The Mount Airy News.

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WOMAN AT THE ELECTROCUTION

Warden Wanted Her to Sign Death Certificate But She Politely Declined

Raleigh, Nov. 30.—For the first time in the history of electrocutions in North Carolina a woman, who refused to give her name to reporters and prison officials, witnessed an electrocution this morning when Claude Morehead, negro wife murderer of Guilford county, went singing and praying to his death. The young woman was pretty and stylishly dressed, and came to the electrocution with friends, who guarded her name with the same care that she did.

Warden Busbee tried to get her name when he asked her to sign the death warrant, thereby adding another new chapter in the history of electrocutions, but she refused to fall in with the suggestion of the warden, and declined to sign the paper testifying that Claude Morehead had died legally and according to the statutes prescribed for such crimes as the one with which he was charged and found guilty.

The woman was passing through Raleigh. It is said she was a native of New York state and that this was the seventh electrocution or other legal execution she has witnessed. One of these was in the famous Sing Sing prison of New York state. Consequently those who looked for unusual emotion of feminine display of temperament when the negro walked into the death house and sat down in the chair were disappointed. For she displayed no apparent emotion—no more than the others who were witnessing an electrocution for the first time, and not as much as some of those who have seen several, for one of the strange things about electrocutions is that the more one sees the more the spectacle horrifies and appalls. At least it affects some of the

West Singing and Praying.

Claude Morehead went to his death singing and praying.

"The Lord have mercy on me, the Lord have mercy on my soul," he prayed as he walked from the cell on death row into the death chamber.

He started a humming intonation that may have been a prayer or may have been a song as he entered the death chamber. This humming continued as he sat down in the chair and the attendants strapped the body. It did not stop even when the helmet was fitted down over his head, and even when the face strap was placed over mouth and nose the humming, droning prayer or song continued, stopping only when the first shock sent the negro's body heaving and straining against the taut leather straps.

Morehead killed his wife in a drunken moment after he and his wife had been to a celebration at the "Bull Pen" in Guilford county, where, according to the evidence there was much drunkenness. Returning to their home after the day's festivities and celebration Morehead accused his wife of something which she denied. This enraged the drunken negro and he slapped his wife in the face and then hit her on the head with a chair. The woman ran into the house but her husband followed her and choked her.

Some negro, attracted by the disturbance, went in and pulled Morehead away from his wife. Thinking that he had stopped the fight he went home, but the negro was not content with the punishment inflicted. Returning to the attack Morehead dragged his wife off the bed and beat her to death, while people on the outside, afraid to enter, watched the murder through the window. Morehead appealed to the Supreme court, but the appeal was never perfected. The case was laid before the governor in an appeal for clemency through commutation, but the governor did not grant the commutation.

Homicide Rate is Highest in South

New York, Dec. 1.—Homicides in the United States during 1920 totaled approximately 9,000, a decrease of 500 from the 1919 record, according to a computation by Frederick L. Hoffman, third vice-president and statistician of the Prudential Life Insurance Company of America.

The figures made public last night through The Spectator, showed Memphis, Tennessee, still in the lead with a killing record of 62.4 persons for every 100,000 of population. The safest of 51 cities for which figures were tabulated was Rochester, N. Y., where the rate was but 1.3 for every 100,000.

NORTH CAROLINA BONDS SELL FOR BIG PREMIUM

Nearly Three Million Dollar Issue is Bought at Premium of 102 1-2.

Raleigh, Dec. 2.—North Carolina bonds were sold this evening in the wholesale lot of \$2,872,000 for 102 1-2, the best premium for North Carolina paper in years.

Treasurer Lacy "Jewed" the New York brokers up from 102 which the council of state would have accepted but for the faith of Mr. Lacy. Governor Morrison was wonderfully set up at the salesmanship of his treasurer, who thinks the newspapers ought to throw up their hats and holler once before kicking him afresh.

Then bonds are 40-year obligations which will bring 25 times as good a premium as those sold to the same folks a few weeks ago.

At that time the state received \$5,000,000 a premium of \$5,021 for the whole business. Today there is a two and a half cent bonus going with every dollar, making the grand total near \$70,000 on \$2,872,000. The First National bank, Stacey and Braun and associates of New York bought this issue. They took the five millions several weeks ago and asked to have a chance at these. The construction work at various state institutions will get nearly all of these, the first half million having been spent.

Treasurer Lacy does not think the state will have any more trouble selling its paper and he expects the whole \$50,000,000 to go in time at advantageous figures.

Ford and Edison Off For Muscle Shoals

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 2.—Thomas A. Edison and Henry Ford left here at noon today for Muscle Shoals, Ala., where they will make their inspection of the nitrate and water power projects to lease from the government.

The party, which included a number of engineers connected with the Ford organization, left in Mr. Ford's private car. Although hundreds of invitations were received from chambers of commerce and other civic bodies along the route, no stops are to be made, it was stated. The party is expected to arrive at Muscle Shoals some time tomorrow.

A report that Mr. Edison was indisposed upon his arrival here yesterday was denied at Mr. Ford's Dearborn office. The inventor was "in perfect trim" when he arrived, it was said, and spent a very busy day in company with the automobile manufacturer, inspecting the automobile plant, tractor factory and other interests of Mr. Ford's.

No definite schedule has been arranged for the inspection at Muscle Shoals and no limitation has been placed upon the length of time to be consumed here. It is understood Mr. Ford and Mr. Edison will go over the projects during the day time and compare notes in the evening. They expect to determine the approximate amount of horsepower that can be developed and expects to show by data to be collected that his offer to the government of \$28,000,000 for the completion of the Wilson Dam is a liberal one.

Famous Derby Racer Found Beneath Ice

Themahis, Man., Nov. 28.—Searching parties, who have been scouring Moose lake, have found the body of Walter Goynes, famous American dog derby racer, who was drowned November 14. Through the transparent ice, the body could be seen in eight feet of water sitting bolt upright on the sled, partly covered by an overboard robe. Stretched out in frost, in perfect alignment were the nine racing dogs.

The provincial police, who investigated, said they believed Goynes was traveling at racing speed toward shore in an effort to escape thin ice, when he plunged through and under heavier ice, where escape was impossible.

Intensely cold weather set soon after the tragedy and the spot where Goynes went down was frozen over with a foot of ice, thus removing every bit of evidence, which might have aided searchers.

Of the eleven loose dogs that were following Goynes and his racing team, two perished at the same time as their master and their bodies were found close to the team. Goynes' dogs were considered among the best in the North country, and much was expected of them in the 1922 derby.

Beware of This Scheme

Raleigh, Dec. 2.—Warnings are now being sent out by the state department of insurance to beware of noticeable efforts to sell securities of the town of Warsaw, Poland, and other Polish municipalities, and also bonds of the Republic of Poland. This "literature" has been seen by the insurance department officials in Wilmington, Greensboro and Morganton and in Raleigh.

These Warsaw bonds, 10,000-mark denominations, are offered for \$19.85 cash. "The people offering the bonds," the department says, "very frankly state that it is a gamble but they produce signed statements from Polish consul-generals, etc., declaring that the bonds are good and will be redeemed at par and are trying to make everybody believe that the Polish mark, formerly worth about 20 cents, will eventually go to par and thus make the holders very wealthy. They figure it out that the investor will make \$119 for every dollar invested."

"Investors should not lose sight of the fact that at present rates of exchange the value of the mark is so low that 10,000 of them are worth only \$2.85, instead of \$19.85 and there is not the slightest probability that the mark will go higher. If any investor is bent on acquiring securities of this class there is no reason why he should pay the promoters of this new 'skin game' a profit of 596 per cent on each bond. His certified check for \$19.85 should purchase approximately 70,000 marks instead."

Much Army Material Turned Over to This State For Road Work

Washington, Dec. 2.—The federal government has turned over to North Carolina for road building purposes more than \$3,000,000 worth of surplus army equipment. This is shown by a summary prepared by the department of agriculture's bureau of roads. It is set out that up to November 1, the state authorities of North Carolina had received 620 trucks and 112 automobiles under the Wadsworth-Kahn act which authorizes the war department through the agricultural department, to distribute surplus army material to the various states.

Total value of the property turned over to North Carolina at the time of the last compilation is given as \$3,093,920. Value of equipment distributed to other southern states is given as follows:

Virginia, \$2,902,000; South Carolina, \$1,768,000; Georgia, \$4,271,000; Tennessee, \$3,154,000.

Altogether approximately \$150,000,000 worth of surplus war material turned over by the war department to the department of agriculture was distributed through the bureau of public building purposes by November 1.

Under the Wadsworth-Kahn bill this surplus war material is sent to the states with the sole provision that it be used only for road building purposes. A vast accumulation of machinery, equipment, supplies and motor vehicles that was to have been used in France has thus been diverted to a useful peace time purpose.

Included in the surplus distributed among the states are 27,198 motor vehicles, mostly trucks; 172 locomotives of various sizes; 25,000 gross tons of rails; more than 4,500,000 pounds of powder, and nearly 10,000 tons of TNT.

Also it is believed that the states have received, in addition to the amount above mentioned, approximately \$5,000,000 worth of material shipped by the war department from the various army camps and not reported by the states as delivered.

Before American Died, He Killed Three Bolivian Cops

Washington, Dec. 2.—Regret for the killing of Hart Mix, an American citizen at Santa Cruz, Bolivia, has been expressed by the Bolivian government and the foreign minister is directing an investigation of the occurrence, the state department was advised today in a report from Minister Maginnis at La Paz.

Mr. Maginnis stated that the investigation showed that Mix had repulsed an invasion by Bolivian police in civilian clothes on his home in Santa Cruz, November 29. In the encounter, in which Mix was slain, three of the police were killed and two wounded. Another American named Metz, an occupant of the Mix home, was arrested by Bolivian authorities, but was released after an official examination.

SIAM PRINCE HAD 300 STEPMOTHERS

"Father Left That Many Widows, All Cared For," Says Youthful Prince

Vancouver, Nov. 29.—"Chowfa Yagala," was the name the swarthy little man wrote on the hotel register. "Perhaps you have some mail for me," he said. Then, as the clerk rifled uselessly through the "Y's," "Quite possibly it may be addressed to Prince Lopburi of Siam."

That is one of the drawbacks when royalty travel incognito. Somebody at home is sure to send along a stock of letters loaded with title. Fifteen minutes after the quiet little man had received his mail, everybody in the hotel knew that a prince of the house of Siam, own brother to the king, was among the day's arrivals.

Yagala did not deny his royal identity when approached for an interview. "I am taking a trip to England and Europe for my health," he said "and I naturally desire to accomplish my journey in an unostentatious manner."

Prince Lopburi's opinion was sought on the question of polygamy, which is legal in his country. It was delicately hinted that America would be interested to know what had become of the 300-odd wives who became widows when his father, King Chulalongkorn Khan, died.

"Proper provision was made for the ladies," briefly answered the prince, "but that is rather ancient history. The question of polygamy is a topic which I do not think should interest the American people. The practice will disappear as civilization progresses."

Briand Arrives Home; Stormy Time is Ahead

Havre, Dec. 2.—Premier Briand returned to France today after a five weeks' absence in Washington. As he landed here he was greeted with deference, but without enthusiasm.

The entire French cabinet, with the exception of Minister of Justice Bonnavay, and the acting premier, War Minister Bart-hou, met the Paris ten miles at sea on the tug Athlete. In a wind which was blowing half a gale and threatening to send the tiny tug crashing against the plates of the huge Paris, M. Briand, "Sailor of St. Nazaire," boarded the Athlete. A heavy sea was running but the premier's opponents made no pretense of hiding their opinion that it was balmy as compared with the storm M. Briand will have to face in the chamber of deputies next Tuesday when he gives an account of his Washington mission.

The Premier and his cabinet members then were transferred to the Destroyer Admiral Senes, a former German craft, on which he held an informal reception.

M. Briand was informed that co-incident with his return, lists were being circulated in the chamber of deputies and the senate purporting to give the composition of a cabinet under former President Poincare, which the opposition expects will succeed the Briand ministry should the latter fall as a result of non-payment by Germany of its reparations quota due January 15.

Altho M. Poincare has refrained from attacking the present cabinet the former president delivered an address at Bordeaux last week which has been characterized as a "program speech," and M. Briand's adversaries are rallying behind him. The cabinet members with whom the correspondent talked today, however, feel positive that Briand will weather the storm in the chamber of deputies as easily as he did the choppy seas this morning in Havre Roads and will be accorded a vote of confidence by a large majority. M. Loucheur told the correspondent that the cabinet's position in regard to France's foreign policy was unconquerable.

A new wireless telephone system, installed by the Franch Line, was inaugurated by the Paris during M. Briand's voyage. The Paris has been in constant telephone communication with France since Wednesday evening. This morning at daybreak, Premier Briand said good morning to Eiffel Tower while the liner was fifty miles off the French coast.

Hail, December

Shout now! The months with loud acclaim,
Take up the cry and send it forth;
With hands upraised, as with one voice,
They join their notes in grand accord:
Hail to December! say they all.
It gave to earth our Christ the Lord.
—J. K. Hoyt.

CONDITIONS BETTER IN STATE THAN ELSEWHERE

A. W. McLean Thinks Agricultural Condition in South Much Better Than in West

Lumberton, Nov. 29.—Agricultural conditions are better in North Carolina than in any other southern or any western state, according to A. W. McLean, a member of the war finance board, who arrived Saturday from Washington.

Speaking of business and financial conditions generally, Mr. McLean said he had had occasion recently to learn at first-hand of agricultural conditions in practically every state in the union and that conditions in North Carolina are better than in any other southern or any western state. Conditions in the south, as a whole are much better than in the west, he says. The greater number of loans made by the war finance corporations have been made to banks in Iowa and Minnesota and other western grain-growing and cattle raising states. Corn is selling on the farms in the west at from 15 to 18 cents the bushel, and there is no market for cattle and sheep. Livestock are worth only about 25 per cent of what they sold for a year and a half ago.

Asked about the prospect for a rise in the price of cotton, Mr. McLean said he would not venture a prediction, other than to say this depends largely upon general business conditions. If business should improve throughout the world, cotton would probably sell for a higher price. Europe is unable to buy our cotton in normal quantities, thus largely reducing the number of our foreign buyers. Those who desire the cotton are unable to pay for it.

"I see no hope of a general improvement in business here until economic conditions in other parts of the world become stabilized," he continued. "This cannot result unless the United States assumes not only an active, but a leading part in the work of stabilization and restoration of economic processes."

The war finance corporation has extended liberal credits to banks in North Carolina for financing the exportation of cotton and tobacco and financing agricultural needs, through the local banks in agricultural regions.

Under the law loans can only be made to banks that have made such loans to farmers. Loans cannot be made upon lands, only upon crops or obligations representing these agricultural commodities.

It's Coming Already

Dr. Plato Durham preached a brilliant sermon before the teachers of the state in assembly at Raleigh Thursday in which he predicted that the idealisms fostered by former President Wilson would soon be accepted by the rank and file of the American people and that the leadership of Mr. Wilson during the past years in American life would be justified, his name enshrined in history and his lofty notions of internationalism be accepted as sane and practical and inevitable.

Events are shaping themselves rapidly toward the fulfillment of that very prophecy. Mr. Wilson is coming back, not in the sense that he will ever again become enmeshed in political fortunes, but in the larger sense that the American people and the world are reaching the conclusion that he headed the only sensible program by which world conditions may be righted.—Charlotte News.

Wilson Mayor Hands Out Stiff Sentence

Wilson, Dec. 3.—With corroborative proof and their appearing no malicious prosecution, there is absolutely not the least chance for those who traffic in liquor when they are haled before Mayor Killebrew. When violators are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt he has in stock a line of sentences for both white and colored, male and female, and he feeds them all out of the same spoon.

Robert Williams, colored, was arraigned before the mayor with three charges against him on the police blotter, viz: having whiskey on hand for the purpose of sale, for selling the stuff and for receiving more than the law allows every fifteen days. On the first two counts he was sent to the roads for six months, and for receiving drew a fine of \$50 and the rest of the trial. He will take his medicine without appeal to a higher court.

CONCERNED OVER SEASON CHANGES

Farmer in Western Carolina Says November Becomes Fall Month

Hickory, Nov. 28.—Farmers in this section of North Carolina, who recall that 30 or 40 years ago, peach and apple crops seldom were killed by frosts and that a full crop of this fruit cannot be expected now once in 100 years, are searching for the reason.

It is not imagination on their part. They recall too that the month of November is a fall month now, whereas 30 or 40 years ago, it was winter month, with October as cold and rainy as November is in the present decade.

Years ago this section of the State was heavily timbered. Observation and experience have taught farmers that crops of trees planted in the woods are not as likely to be damaged by frost as if they were exposed in large fields. The farmer sows his tobacco seed bed in the forest, in a place cleared for that purpose. Here the exposure is not great.

Some farmers believe there is a direct relation between deforestation and killing frosts. They believe that there should be a way of circumventing nature, since man has destroyed the safeguards erected by nature. Farmers cannot give any explanation between the late fall now and the early fall many years ago. The spring comes late. Winter is at least a month farther removed now than it was 40 years ago and spring is also a month later.

What farmers in this section would like to learn is whether something could not be done to correct conditions which they believe are of recent origin. There is more interest in fruit growing in the foothills and mountains now than at any other time, because the demand for apples and peaches is greater, but the question the older generation of farmers propound is, why does frost kill the fruit nearly every season now when years ago it did not?

There is always some fruit in nearly every section. This year the Brushy mountains of Alexander are furnishing the apples. In some parts of Catawba county apples and peaches hit, but generally speaking the crop was a failure this year. It is that way every year now. Farmers want to know why.

LORENZ FAINTS THREE TIMES

Great Bone Specialist, Weakened by the Crush and Clamored of Cripples for Help, Collapses Three Times.

New York, Nov. 29.—Weakened by lack of nourishment, due to a malady of the stomach, Dr. Adolf Lorenz, the noted Austrian surgeon, fainted three times today while attending patients in his charity clinic here.

Then, after recovering from the succession of collapses, which took place within a few minutes of each other, the famous specialist, deaf to the pleading of his American colleagues, insisted upon going to another hospital, where new scores of poor people were clamoring for his ministrations.

Later in the day, and with the utmost reluctance, Dr. Lorenz yielded to the arguments of the physician whom he consulted yesterday, announcing that next week unless he was stronger, he would hold but one clinic each day, in his effort to repay part of his country's debt to America for food and medicinal aid.

"It is too much—all this work," he said. "I can not do it all with my strength. I'm sorry."

When the great bone specialist saw his first patients at 8:30 this morning, hundreds of men, women and children were waiting in line outside the hospital. A mille man and a sandwich vendor had served breakfast to many.

Scores, hospital attaches declared, had waited there in the rain all night—mothers and fathers with crippled children in their arms, unfortunates on crutches or leaning on canes. They had been told the surgeon could not possibly see them today. But still they had waited, undaunted.

The patients selected for examination were placed in small compartments. Witnesses expressed the opinion that lack of air in them might have caused the surgeon to be overcome. After fainting the first time, Dr. Lorenz saw applicants in groups of five. In this way he examined about 300.