

# The Mount Airy News.

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## GOVERNOR SNATCHES MAN FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR

### Did Prayers of "Death Row" Inmates Reach Governor Morrison?

Raleigh, April 24.—The prayers of 17 condemned men went up from death row in the state's prison last night beseeching the Almighty to save the life of Milton Nobles.

And when the morning brought the hand of the governor staying the electrocution a new faith dwelt among the inmates of the narrow, celled rooms.

There are 18 men who peer through the bars along the corridor. The one who did not pray for life was Nobles himself.

"I just prayed my Lord to give me strength to do His will," he said, as his smiling face contended with the brightness of the sun rays fighting for admittance through the glazed windows. "I knowed my Lord knowed I was innocent; and if He wanted me to go down I knowed He would be there to meet me, and if He wanted me to stay I knowed He was watching over me."

### Half Hour of Death

Nobles was within a half-hour of the electric chair when Governor Morrison issued a 60-day respite. The man's insistent protestations of his innocence prompted it.

The governor will look carefully into the case of the ignorant Columbus county farmer, and if he finds doubt exists as to the murder of his second cousin commutation of sentence will result. Otherwise Milton will take a final nervous journey down the corridor two months hence.

Three men are largely responsible for the governor's respite. Rev. S. J. Betts, Rev. Lummus Goodwin and Joe H. Weathers, the latter a Sunday school superintendent, visited Nobles this morning and earnestly sought to procure a last minute confession of his guilt. But he insisted that he was innocent. His attitude was reported to Governor Morrison, and the executive felt that if he stood so firmly in the very shadow of the death chair the case deserved further consideration.

Mrs. Milton Nobles appeared before him last week to appeal for commutation. Nothing in the case could be found that would justify commutation of sentence and when announcement of the declination was made the wife fainted.

In view of the man's last minute reprieve this morning peculiar interest is added to a letter his aged mother wrote a half dozen days ago reporting that the night before she had dreamed he was respited when on the very threshold of the ultimate judgment imposed by man.

### Church Repudiated Him

His mother and wife and five children are about all who have stood by him, except the three men and the governor, Nobles said. His own church refused to reinstate him in the absence of a confession of his guilt. His greatest worry has been caused not by the shadow of death or the severe judgment of his church, but because of the need of his children.

"My oldest boy, fourteen, he's a bright boy and he loves his books. I swore he would have a schooling, which I missed, and he was getting it until I got down here. Then he had to go to work; poor fellow; he loves his books," murmured Nobles. And then he returned to his contention of his own innocence.

"If all the people in the world would walk into this cell and say if I was guilty of killing Henry Nobles I could go free I would say I was innocent. If you took me out of here and chopped me to pieces on a block of stone I would still say I was innocent. My Lord knows I am innocent."

That is what Nobles told the two ministers and Sunday school worker when they called on him at 9:45 o'clock this morning to investigate for the governor. They warned him he had only 45 minutes more to live, and that his confession was a matter between himself and God. But he was insistent that he was innocent.

The trio went back and reported to the governor. They vowed they believed the man innocent; and the governor immediately issued the respite in order that he might look into the case.

### Prayed For the Governor

The news was brought back to Nobles at 10 o'clock. He knelt on his cot and prayed:

"Oh, God, bless the governor and keep him under Thy gracious care.

Make him happy, oh, my Lord, and bless the governor, my Lord, oh, bless him."

His prayer ran on for fully two or three minutes, and those who heard him said it was a "most beautiful prayer."

When he had ceased, his celled neighbors broke forth into "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow." And happiness assuredly reigned in death row.

Then the ministers left him and Nobles spent an hour in prayerful silence. When the newspaper visitors called shortly after 11 his face was smiling and he stood erect and calmly.

"You believe in prayer, don't you?" he was asked.

"Oh, my Lord is so good to me. But He knows I am innocent. But He died for us all and I could die for the truth if he did. They persecuted my Lord just like they're persecuting me. No, suh, I didn't pray for him to save my life; I just prayed for him to give me strength to do His will."

"Once, this morning, I felt my faith weakening; and then I prayed harder. I sorta got to trembling, you know; and I wondered if my Lord was watching over me. But I prayed harder and harder, and then I got back my faith and my strength back. And then they came and told me I wouldn't die; oh, my Lord, bless the governor."

### Other Prisoners Prayed

The other prisoners said they prayed last night for the life of Nobles because they were positive he was not guilty. One negro reported that he had prayed all night.

"Course, maister, I did my killing—by accident, though—but I would have gone to the chair this morning for Mister Nobles cause I know he didn't do it," a negro volunteered.

You have faith and hope in something happening before the next 60 days passes?" Nobles was asked with the expectancy of an affirmative answer.

"I'm jest trusting in the Lord," he replied. "I thank my Lord, and I leave myself in his hands. I thank the good people who are helping me and I don't think they will let my enemies persecute me always. I hope they will find the truth; they said they were going to bring the little girl up here for her to see the governor."

"I love those three men who came to see me; and the governor, my Lord bless him, he's a good man."

The girl of whom he spoke is the eight year old daughter of the murdered man, who testifies she saw Nobles kill her father. She is reported to have been the only witness against him as to the actual murder. Nobles said she testified her mother told her to tell.

It's jest so hard when you know a thing so much, and you can't get anybody, nobody to believe you. I love those three men who came to see me, and the governor, may the Lord bless them."

"Did you sleep much last night?" he was asked.

"No, suh, not much," was the smiling reply. "But I prayed to my Lord a lot."

Captain S. J. Busbee, the prison warden, told Nobles that if he is innocent and is right with God it will make no differences what happens.

"If you are innocent, you need not worry; if you do have to be electrocuted, you will be all right. But if you are guilty and hold it back, you will be just as mean as the worst drunkard in the world. I have seen men who would not confess; and only when they were in the chair and were being strapped, and with just another minute to live, did they say they were guilty. It is too late then to get right with God," Captain Busbee told him.

"I know it, Captain, and I know that if I go down (nodding towards the door at the extreme end of the corridor leading to the chair) and go out of this world, my Lord will be there to grasp my hand, cause I am at peace with Him and He knows I am innocent."

### Notice To Tax-Payers

Tax-listing books for the Mount Airy township will be open in Will Kirkman's office over the W. S. Wolfe Drug Co.'s store, May 7-31. Hours 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. except Saturdays when the list-takers will remain until 6 p. m.

The books are in charge of B. Y. Graves and T. B. McCargo.

A penalty is provided for persons failing to list.

## SON OF ENGLAND'S KING WEDS

### England's Highest 800, Jewelled, Diked Out in Fine Raiment, There.

London, April 26.—Albert, Duke of York, was united in marriage with Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in solemn old Westminster abbey at noon today with a pomp and panoply reminiscent of the pacific days of the mid-Victorian era and amid the tumultuous demonstrations of the vast throngs that gathered under threatening skies to witness the wedding pageant.

It was the second time in a little more than a year that the king and queen of England gave one of their children in wedlock to a person outside the realm of royalty. While the marriage of the sovereign's second son did not stir the popular imagination of the British empire as did Princess Mary's wedding, the romance which turned a simple Scottish girl into a royal prince's bride and elevated her from a position of relative obscurity to the place of the fourth lady of the land, captured the hearts of the English people. The fact that Lady Elizabeth's marriage to the Duke of York makes her eligible to wear the crown of the empire in event anything untoward befalls the Prince of Wales, imparted an additional note of interest and significance to the event.

Today's ceremony within the hallowed walls of the historic abbey, which has witnessed the supreme joys and sorrows of the nation for ages past, was both a great religious and social event, and was marked by a glittering exhibition of fashion and sumptuous jewels. Eight hundred of England's greatest luminaries in state, court, diplomacy and society, as well as an impressive assemblage of foreign princes, dukes, duchesses and others of rank and title were there, attired in finery and jewelled embellishments that represented the proverbial king's ransom.

The archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by England's most distinguished prelates, solemnized the union. The Prince of Wales took a prominent part in the proceedings and doubtless learned much that will be turned to good account when he enters the marriage state himself. Wales and his brother, Prince Henry, acted as best man, but it was Wales who produced the ring at the proper time.

Lady Elizabeth was attired in an exquisite gown of white ivory moire chiffon embellish with bands of silver and pearl embroidery. A 15-foot train of ivory-colored net hung from her shoulders.

The duke was dressed in the uniform of an officer of the royal air force. King George wore the field uniform of a general, while Queen Mary's attire was a gown of blue and silver.

Seats were limited to those on intimate terms with the families of the bride and bridegroom, or whose official or social status entitled them to the distinction of witnessing the ceremony.

George Harvey, the American ambassador, was a striking figure in tight velvet knee breeches, silk stockings and other court regalia, while Mrs. Harvey attracted wide attention in her gown of beige crepe with overdress of black lace and sash and vest of beige crepe embroidered in oriental colors. She wore sable furs and a black crinoline hat trimmed with lace bows.

In all, nine Americans witnessed the ceremony. In addition to Ambassador and Mrs. Harvey there favored guests were seven of the American newspaper men in London who cast lots for the opportunity of writing eye-witness descriptions of the service and the gorgeous spectacle it afforded.

## Ford to Give Winter Jobs, to Farmers

Detroit, April 26.—Statements in the state senate at Lansing late yesterday to the effect that Henry Ford planned to build a factory on every small waterpower site he can obtain in Michigan and give winter employment at city wages, to the farmers, were confirmed by persons close to the automobile manufacturer today.

Under Mr. Ford's plan he would dot the state with manufacturing concerns that would operate at full capacity during the winter, the farmer being released each spring to care for his crops.

This would have the effect of scattering industry throughout the state rather than concentrating it in the cities.

## NORTHERN LIFE IS HARD ON NEGROES

### In Every Northern State Deaths Outnumber Births—City Life Kills

Washington, April 27.—The general movement of southern negro farmers to northern industrial centers, shown by a recent survey of the department of agriculture will, if continued, have a very marked effect both on the labor supply in the south and upon the negro race itself, in the opinion of officials of the census bureau.

An analysis of the bureau of the 1920 census shows marked tendencies toward interstate migration and concentration in cities, the movement receiving its first impetus in the demands for unskilled labor during the world war.

During the decade nearly 235,000 negroes removed to cities in the South Atlantic States and nearly the same number to cities in the east north central states.

"In every one of the northern states negro deaths in the five years, 1915-1919, outnumbered births; in the southern states, in general, the conditions are reversed," the analysis of the bureau states. Throughout the north and in cities of the south negro deaths are more numerous than negro births; in fact, southern cities are even more unfavorable than those of the north to natural increase. In 1920 for the first time the proportion of white children to white women exceeded that of negro children to negro women the difference being 42 per 1,000. At the present time, the proportion of children to women among southern negroes is only about five sixths of what it is among southern whites.

"If the rate of increase between 1900 and 1920 be projected through the rest of the century without change, it would yield at its close about 20,500,000 as the maximum limit of negro population. It also seems reasonable to anticipate that the negroes who in 1790 were over 19 per cent or nearly one fifth of the population of the country, and now are about one 10th, are likely by the end of century to be not more than one 20th."

## North Main School Honor Roll.

First Grade, Clegg.

Dale Monday, Edward Jones, Macon Jordan, Catherine Gilbert, Evelyn Vereen, Sara Scott Gwyn.

2nd Grade Lucas.

Helen Lee Nelms, Blanche Gwyn, Mildred Jones, Marguerite Morris, Myrtle Hudson, Georgia Worrell, Lewis Webb, Thomas Fawcett, Keith Smith.

3rd Grade, Johnson.

Margaret Coble, Georgia Childress, Rebecca Hines, James Hunt, Mary Midkiff, Mildred Smith, Edith Smith, Helen Tilley, Mary Watson, Irene Cundiff, Dorothy Jones, Eva Joy Worrell.

4th Grade, Bungarner.

Rena Pendleton, Dora Belle Graves, Mary Bowman, Robert Harrison, James Combs, Dot Martin, Charlie Witt, Burnus Smith.

7th Grade, Creighton.

Annie Fawcett, Verona West.

## Children of Confederacy Meet

The Col. B. Y. Graves C. of C. will meet with Edith Clair Leake Saturday afternoon the 5th of May at 3 o'clock at her home on South Main Street.

Those eligible to membership in the C. of C. are boys and girls from infancy to eighteen years of age or neices or grand-neices, nephews, or grand-nephews, of men and women who honorably served the Confederate States of America. Our state director urges that we register every child that is eligible, those who wish to join this organization can get blanks and information from the leader.

Mrs. P. S. Rothrock

## Atty. Edgar Turlington Chosen for Responsible Position

Friends of the late Prof. I. T. Turlington and his splendid family will learn with interest that his son Atty. Edgar Turlington of Washington D. C. has been chosen as legal advisor to the American Delegation to the Lausanne Conference.

This appointment is one of great responsibility, and it is no small honor that the men in authority in the nation have intrusted this responsibility to so young a man as Mr. Turlington.

Mr. Turlington landed in France last week and went immediately to Switzerland via Paris.

## Legality of Contract

Greensboro Patriot.

Decision of the North Carolina Supreme court that the contracts made by the members of the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Marketing association under which it operates, are valid gives to the association a force and power without which it would be nothing. It means that the association is an organization able to do something because of the combined power of its members.

Without a valid contract there would be no force. Time and again there have been farmers' organizations formed, the theory of which was they would all work together for the good of each and all, but they failed because they wouldn't all do it. There were contract breakers, where the contract was not an ironclad pledge, and the organizations dissolved like mist. There was nothing to them. Theory wouldn't hold water. Theory alone couldn't do it.

It was explained very carefully, time and again, with every means of emphasis, when the association was in the making that the contract is an ironclad paper; that there could be no backing down; that once in a member has to stick; that he had signed up to deliver, and deliver he must. If any man went into the association with a wrong conception of what it is he has no one to blame but himself. Every point was made clear, at the organization meetings, in the newspapers, made very clear. Especially was the nature of the contract explained.

The association has proved workable. It has achieved its aims in part and it is on the road to its others. It will take time to achieve them, but there is plenty of time. Time is on the side of the cooperatives, time for steady growth, sure growth. This is no mushroom plant, no hot house flower, but a sturdy stalk, partaking of the nature of the men of the soil.

And the decision of the court makes it legal. It removes the doubts of those who feared that it might be a "trust." It removes the doubts of those who feared that some chill word from the bench might kill the plant, a blighting frost.

It is true that the enemies of co-operation may take the matter to the United States Supreme court. That is their right. If they care to go to further expense, to fatten some lawyers in their enmity to the association they can go to it. They will find the agents of the association right there, prepared, with the decision of the North Carolina Supreme court behind them. On one side will be the lawyers of the anti-cooperatives; on the other the lawyers of the cooperatives—and the Supreme court of North Carolina. The difference is plain. Even a layman unlearned in the law or in the ways of courts can see that it is easier to affirm a decision of a court, especially a court made up of more than one man, than to reverse it.

The ants die hard, but they die and when they surrender it will be a complete victory. It will pay them to work with, not against the cooperatives.

## Federal Reserve Safe Largest in the World.

Cleveland, April 23.—The largest safe in the world is being installed in the new fourth federal reserve bank building here, according to George Oaks of York, Pa., the constructing engineer in charge of the work.

The steel frame vestibule is in place and the safe door and other parts are due to arrive soon. The vestibule, or frame, weighs 200,900 pounds and the door and the remainder of the gigantic steel vault weighs 300,000 pounds more.

The vault is 13 feet square and has an all-round thickness of four feet of the toughest chromium steel. The vault is in a room 50 by 70 feet, with no windows. The walls of the room are seven feet thick all over and are made of rivet grip reinforced concrete, being almost a mass of steel cemented by concrete.

Mr. Oaks said the vault, in case of an attempted robbery would stand against a heavy artillery fire for half an hour, as its steel protection is four times thicker than the armor plate of a battleship.

## Indigestion and Constipation.

"Prior to using Chamberlain's Tablets, I suffered dreadfully from indigestion. Nothing I ate agreed with me and I lost flesh and ran down in health. Chamberlain's Tablets strengthened my digestion and cured me of constipation," writes Mrs. Geo. Stroup, Solway, N. Y.

## Wants Government to Buy All Liquor

Washington, April 29.—The government should buy up all the 37,400,000 gallons of distilled liquors in the country. It should issue bonds or certificates to raise the necessary funds for such purchase. It should then distribute them according to legitimate needs "without stint or hindrance" and hold the men and the corporations that get them "responsible before the law."

This is the proposal put forth as remedy for many of the evils now attending prohibition, by James J. Britt, counsel for the prohibition unit. A bill providing authority for such a bond issue may be introduced in the next session of Congress in December.

Mr. Britt would not, however, include in the proposed government purchase, alcohol or wine, but only distilled spirits already made and in the warehouses, including whiskies, gin, rum and brandy.

Mr. Britt, it was learned, following his presentation of the proposal to the American Drug Manufacturers association, estimates the value of the distilled spirits variously from \$2 to \$6 a gallon. Under his plan, therefore, to take over the distilled spirits of the nation, the government would invest somewhere between \$74,000,000 and \$224,400,000 in property now belonging to private citizens and corporations, thereby serving the double purposes, he believes, of economic justice to the owners of the liquor, and of more efficient enforcement of prohibition.

## Reasonable Price Figure.

The price should be set at a "reasonable figure," Mr. Britt believes, but should be a just return to the owners. The owners of distilled spirits, Mr. Britt believes, did not expect the 18th amendment to pass, and "they did not put their business on any footing that would safeguard them against financial loss in the future."

"The result is in many instances men of high respectability owning these certificates in large quantities of drink, are concerning themselves with men we call bootleggers, men whom they would not have at their tables or introduce to their wives and daughters, but still for the time being they may have them bring into the market some of this product on which they may lose their all," he says.

## MAY PROVE FATAL

### When Will Mt. Airy People Learn the Importance of it?

Backache is only a simple thing at first.

But if you find 'tis from the kidneys;

That serious kidney troubles may follow;

That dropsy or Bright's disease may be the fatal end.

You will be glad to know the following experience.

'Tis the honest statement of a resident of this locality.

U. G. Puckett, farmer, Ararat, Va., says: "If I bent over, a whole lot it weakened my back and I got sore and lame. My kidneys didn't act properly and caused me to have terrible headaches. I got relief almost immediately, however, from Doan's Kidney Pills. Whenever I have any of this trouble now, a few Doan's bring quick relief."

Price 60c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Puckett had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

## Resale of Land

By virtue of power contained in order of Superior Court of Surry County, in action entitled Floyd Hill, Executor, of Moses Hill vs. Lady Hill and other heirs of Moses Hill, directing the undersigned Commissioner to resell said lands for reason that raised bid has been placed on said lands, I will sell at public auction on the premises in Westfield Township on

Wednesday, May 16th, 1923 at 2 o'clock P. M.

the following lands, adjoining A. L. Jessup, A. Q. Hunter and others, and beginning at Post oak A. L. Jessup line runs North 87 West 14.75 chains to stake Bryants line, then North 5 1-2 East 18.43 chs. to stake in Hunters line, then South 87 East running South of stables 14.78 chs. to stake in Hunters line, South 5 1-2 West 13.43 chs. to beginning. Containing 20 acres more or less. The bid to start at amount of raised bid \$205.25. Terms one half cash, balance in one year.

This April 26th 1923. FLOYD HILL, Commissioner O. E. Snow, Attorney.