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LIEUT. GOVERNOR OF STATE ARRESTED

United States Warrants Charge Conspiracy to Ruin Bank at Wilmington.

Wilmington, Aug. 16.—Lieutenant Governor W. B. Cooper, former chairman of the board of the defunct Commercial National Bank, his brother, Thomas E. Cooper, former president, Horace C. Cooper, cashier, and Clyde Lassiter, an automobile dealer, are at liberty today under bonds from \$1,000 to \$10,000 following their arrest here last night on charges of conspiracy to defraud and wreck the Commercial National Bank.

The specific charges against Thomas F. Cooper alleges misapplication of funds and monies of the bank, and conspiracy. Lieutenant Governor Cooper is charged with conspiring with Thomas E. Cooper to defraud the Commercial bank of certain sums of money, and misapplication of certain funds and monies. Horace Cooper is alleged to have misapplied funds of the bank and to have made false entries in the bank's records. Lassiter is accused of aiding and abetting Thomas E. Cooper in the misapplication of funds.

Whether the Coopers would be arrested and tried for their handling of the affairs of the defunct Wilmington bank has been a subject of much discussion among the people of Wilmington for some little time.

Sentiment in the seaport city seems to have been almost unanimous that the Coopers should be made to explain certain facts about the bank, and many Wilmingtonians have been outspoken in declaring the Coopers should be indicted and tried.

The failure of the Cooper bank and many other smaller institutions governed by it was one of the hardest blows Wilmington ever sustained. The popular estimate in and around Wilmington is that the crash of the Cooper bank cost that city not less than \$5,000,000 and did great injury to the section's credit.

Too much slow paper and not well secured loans are the causes Wilmington in general attributes as having been responsible for the bank's crash.

The Commercial National bank was closed on December 30, 1922, after an examination by National Bank Examiner William P. Folger, who took charge.

SAYS COOPER VICTIM REPUBLICAN INTRIGUE

Emmett Bellamy, of Wilmington, Lays His Indictment to Political and Personal Prejudice

Raleigh, Aug. 18.—Lieutenant Governor W. B. Cooper, under indictment in the federal courts for conspiracy in the wrecking of the Wilmington Commercial National bank, is the victim of personal and political prejudice, in the view of Senator Emmett H. Bellamy, who issued today a statement attacking Republican officeholders, charging that political intrigue is back of the arrests.

Senator Bellamy cites the fact that Governor Cooper is only one of the board of directors who approved a bad loan in the bank, but none of the directors working with him has been arrested.

"If W. B. Cooper, is guilty, so also is every banker and G. O. P. officeholder in charge of bank affairs," says Mr. Bellamy.

In a statement given out today the indictment by the department of justice agents, is in his opinion, "the result of collusion between certain Republican leaders, the purpose of which is to embarrass the Democratic party in North Carolina. If Lieutenant Governor Cooper has committed any criminal act, then the board of directors of every banking institution in the state of North Carolina is guilty of having committed a criminal act, as the only thing he did was to approve a loan which has subsequently proved bad, and from reliable sources he has been informed the bank has ample collateral ultimately to make the loan good.

"The Commercial National bank, of which Mr. Cooper was one of the directors at the time of the failure, was closed by order of the comptroller of currency on or about January 5, 1923, and since that time the bank's affairs have been in the hands of the federal government and office holders appointed by the Republican administration. Mr. Cooper derived not one penny from the transaction and according to my view of the matter, is absolutely blameless, and I can see nothing upon which indictment is pre-

dicted, other than political intrigue. "Governor Cooper has received hundreds of telegrams and letters of sympathy and on account of the frivolous nature of the charges, he does not intend to resign."

STATE IS TRANSCRIBING OLD WILLS IN RECORDS

One Copied During Week Was Made in 1744 by Joseph Bell of "Cartrite."

Raleigh, Aug. 18.—The task of transcribing wills and other old documents, some of them nearly two centuries old, is a task now consuming much of the time of the secretaries in the office of W. N. Everett, secretary of state, but a task not altogether devoid of interest, it being something that reflects interestingly on the customs, life, thought and religious temperament of the early inhabitants of the state.

Two wills made by Joseph Bell, of Carteret county in 1726 and 1744 transcribed this week attracted much interest on the part of employes in the office in spite of the hours of tedious work they spent in making the transcriptions.

Both wills abound in misspelled words and grammatical errors, but rhetorically they are forceful and expressive. Although new typewritten copies have been made, the original manuscripts will be preserved in the state's archives. They now are almost illegible, the ink having faded and the parchment having browned with age. They were read with the aid of a magnifying glass.

In point of phraseology and religious expression, the will drawn in 1744 is the most interesting. It follows in part:

"In the name of God, Amen, this 12th day of March 1744. I Joseph Bell of Cartrite county in North Carolina Planter be very sick and weak in Body but in perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God. "Therefore Calling unto mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to dye do make and ordain this my last will and Testament that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul into the hand of God that gave it and I recommend my Body to the Earth to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of my executors nothing doubting but at The General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by The Mighty power of God and as touching Such Wordly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to blessed me in this life I give demise and dispose of same in following manner and form.

In the first will Joseph Bell bequeathed various pieces of property, real and personal, to his wife, Martha Bell, and to four children, but in the second will he named his wife as the principal heir and designated that after her death the property should go to a son, not naming any of the three other children as heirs. It was not stated whether they had died or for what reason they were not mentioned in the will.

The will was signed "Joseph Bell." The name "Thomas Harrill," who was a witness, was affixed beneath with the marks of Raichel Booth and Martha Booth, also witnesses. It was certified by Geo. Read, clerk of court.

Well Diggers at Shelby Strike Strata of Gold

Shelby, August, 12.—City aldermen and county commissioners seem to have started something when they decided to have a deep well drilled on the court square, for gold, real gold, has been found in the hard granite rock which the well diggers' bit is slowly passing. What will be the result is a matter of question.

About 60 feet the drill went before rock was struck and a little over 400 feet has been gone in solid granite. About 10 feet in the granite and the people who were around the drilling outfit noticed that when the water and muck were pumped out there were numerous quantities of yellow sand interspersed with the particles of blue granite. There was much discussion, but nobody seemed to take the matter seriously. However, T. W. Hamrick, jeweler and member of the board of aldermen, decided to satisfy his own mind. He took a handful of the muck over to his store and tested it. Gold, he says it is, and his reputation as a jeweler, coupled with his known conservative mind, stopped all controversy.

There is not gold in any tremendous quantities, thinks Mr. Hamrick, but he believes that the amount found in the rock is easily enough to justify the belief that somewhere nearby there is gold in considerable quantities.

Mountaineers Fear Feud May Break Over Case

Norfolk, Va., Aug. 20.—While Robert O. Garrett and Larkin C. Garrett awaited a new trial for the killing of the Rev. Edward Sylvester Pierce, Baptist minister, Cumberland county, where the killing took place, is wondering whether the festering sore of feuds that has tormented it for the last ten years is to be opened and relieved by the prosecution and the verdict, whatever it may be, or whether it may break out in a new place at any moment.

The trial of the Garretts was halted August 3 by the decision of Judge White, presiding sustaining the motion of the state for a mistrial because of disqualification of three persons by statements they were alleged to have made before the trial.

Culmination of Long Wrangle
The killing of the Rev. Mr. Pierce was only one eruption of the internal fever of quarrels, gossip and recrimination that has been raging in Cumberland county, though it is the most serious so far. Heretofore most of the differences between the factions have come to the surface in arguments, or in fights in which no one was killed.

The first automobile that came to Cumberland, years ago, started a train of feuds that have never died out. It was driven by Dr. Carter Weisiger. Robert Garrett was at work in a field on a reaper when the doctor drove up in his new car. As is the way of new cars with new drivers, the automobile, with a whole field to choose from, headed for the one object it needed to avoid, and there was a collision followed by hot words. When both men had relieved their minds the trouble apparently was over, but it is believed to have been the starting point for many things that happened afterward.

Shortly after the automobile incident the Garretts had a fight with four men. The fight took place on one of the highways in Cumberland county, and was settled with no other weapons than their fists, but next day in front of the office of the clerk of the court, the fight was renewed, and in this battle Charley Carson was shot in the back. Robert Garrett was accused of doing the shooting, and was tried before Judge George J. Hundley and acquitted. Garrett claimed the shooting was accidental. Judge Hundley refused to preside at the present murder trial.

Situation Like Tinder
Then for a time there was peace again around Cumberland, but there was always a smouldering fire ready to flare up at the first flash of a gun or the sound of an unkind word by either the Garretts or those opposed to their regime.

Cumberland county elected L. C. Garrett a member of the school board. This body named the teachers of all the schools. They would hire or discharge teachers, but the dismissed person had the right to appeal to the electoral board for final disposition of the case. In Cumberland county, the electoral board not only names the judges to preside over elections, but it also has the power that is accorded boards of supervisors in other rural communities in Virginia.

The school board hired a pretty young woman to teach music in the Cumberland high school. She was an excellent teacher too. Her pupils called her "Miss May" and today few people know her by any other name. Those who do know her full name are apparently afraid to mention it for fear that by doing so more trouble will be started.

Romance Started the Row
This pretty little woman fell in love with a Cumberland youth who took no part in the factions existing in the community. The pair were to have been married. One day the lovers were seen in each other's embrace and somebody reported it to the school board.

Larkin C. Garrett took it upon himself to make a fight against the teacher. There were reports that he did not like her for several reasons. He used his influence, it is charged, to get another of the three members of the board to side with him, and they voted to ask "Miss May" for her resignation.

It was the opinion of the two members of the school board that the fact that "Miss May" had kissed a man so that others could see her, tended to lower the moral standard of the school system and would have a detrimental effect on the pupils if the incident was allowed to pass unnoticed. One member of the board saw no harm in "Miss May" kissing her sweetheart. The fact that she made no attempt to conceal the kiss from others was proof, the lone member

of the board claimed, that the kiss was as pure as that of a baby." But Larkin Garrett and the other member of the board could not see it that way. They insisted that the young woman resign.

"Miss May" was a member of the Baptist church of which the Rev. Mr. Pierce was pastor. Her case was taken to him. Members of the congregation came to the girl's assistance. They claim "Miss May" was a good woman, and her sweetheart a deserving and respectful young man. Everybody in the county knew the pair were to be married.

Rev. Mr. Pierce appealed the woman's case to the electoral board and that body promptly reversed the decision of the school board. "Miss May" retained her position, but it is claimed, the school board made it so unpleasant for her she resigned voluntarily after a few months.

Parson's Prayer Started Feud
It was during a service in the Baptist church that the Rev. Mr. Pierce made a remark while praying that resulted in his death from pistol wounds inflicted, the prosecution alleges, by one or both of the Garrett brothers now on trial for murder.

The three members of the school board were married. Two of them were fathers of children. Larkin Garrett had no children. When Mr. Pierce prayed on the night in question he did not call the name of any member of the school board. He prayed for "Miss May," asking the good Lord to "help her to best her enemies—and, oh Lord," continued the preacher, "if it be Thy will remove from the board the member who has no children."

Everybody in the church that night knew the minister was referring to Larkin Garrett as the only childless member. News that Mr. Pierce had "prayed against Mr. Garrett" spread all over the county. Larkin Garrett was pointed out as the "man without children" whom Mr. Pierce had prayed to have removed from the school board.

The Garretts were the talk of the county. The Rev. Mr. Pierce let it be known that a good woman had been hounded out of her position through the influence of Larkin Garrett. Everybody but Garrett's friend took up the cry. "He should be ashamed of himself" was the household word of the women of the county.

Beat up the Preacher
The Garretts were not heard from for some days. Then Larkin Garrett met the preacher and asked him if he had prayed as he was reported to have done. What the preacher said is not known. Larkin Garrett was accompanied by his brother when they met the minister. There was a fist fight in which the preacher was badly worsted. The fight happened right at the front gate of the preacher's home.

When he picked himself off the ground where he had been knocked by a blow from one of the Garrett's fists, he was bleeding at the nose and mouth. He ran into the house and got a shotgun. He came out again and his wife and children came with him. He again accosted the Garretts and there were more words and fist blows. Then the shooting began.

The Garretts are said to have opened fire on the preacher together and even when he was on the ground the prosecution charges they fired bullets into his body. The authorities dug out of the earth where the preacher fell, two bullets which it is claimed were fired at the minister after he had fallen.

Mr. Pierce picked up the head of her wounded husband and rested it in her lap. It is charged the Garretts did not stop shooting even when this happened.

"You have killed him; isn't that enough?" Mrs. Pierce is quoted as saying to the Garretts while they continued to fire at the body of her fallen husband.

After the shooting the Garretts walked away. They claimed they had killed the Rev. Mr. Pierce because he had tried to kill them. The people of the county say it was because the minister was one of the few persons in the entire community who did not fear the power of the Garrett political machine and had steadfastly stood by the little school teacher who had kissed her sweetheart and was not ashamed to let others see her do it.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce was an aggressive man. He did good work among the poor and he was always fighting for a peaceful community. He had said Cumberland would be a thousand times better off if the Garretts would move away. The Garretts retorted that Cumberland could get along without the preacher. Neither of them would move away and it took a bullet to send the minister away.

CUNO'S FALL ATTRIBUTED TO THE SHORTAGE OF POTATO CROP

Chancellor Stresemann's Problem Will be to Replenish German Larder With the European Dish, Potatoes—Frederick the Great Had a Similar Experience

Berlin, Aug. 18.—"Yes, we have no potatoes today," is the universal complaint in Germany, which played a large part in the down fall of the Cuno government and indicates the most important task which Chancellor Stresemann faces in taking over control in the present food and financial crisis.

Frederick the great fought a food war which was called the "potato war." He and his brother, Prince Henry, led the Prussian troops in 1778-79 against the Austrians in order to obtain food supplies. The food shortage also was one of the chief causes for the collapse of the empire which forced the former emperor William to become an exile in Doorn.

So German history is merely repeating itself, and the republic's inability to feed itself is emphasized in the depreciation of the currency, which makes purchases outside the country impossible. The lack of grain has forced Germany to forego large quantities of the bread which plays so great a part in the diet of the French and other extensive wheat growing neighbors, with the result that the potato is of more importance in Germany than it is in Ireland.

When Peru sent potatoes to central Europe, by way of Spain and when Sir Walter Raleigh popularized it in the British Isles, an important economic factor entered Europe from the new world. Estonia is scoffingly called the "potato republic," by Russians who dislike that country. But Estonia is proud of the title and declares its people were fed on potatoes when the Russians were starving and that the independence of the nation is founded on potatoes.

Germany's tragic shortage of potatoes is due partly to the lateness and wetness of the season, partly to the unrest in the cities and the shortage of currency to facilitate purchases and shipments from rural districts or from abroad, as would have been done under normal conditions. But the market baskets without potatoes are empty in the eyes of millions of German housewives, and the full market basket is just as necessary to the popularity of the German government as is the full dinner pail in America.

The shortage of meat, milk, butter and fats was critical enough but when the supply of potatoes failed, riots followed and a change in government followed.

The American embassy had the appearance of a special session of congress during the last week. Senators Ashurst of Arizona, Roberson of Arkansas, McKeller of Tennessee, Swanson of Virginia, former Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, Congressman Baker of California, Roland Morris former ambassador to Japan, and other prominent Americans many of whom are en route to Copenhagen to attend the meeting of the inter-parliamentary union, called on Ambassador Houghton whom they all knew when he was a congressman.

These distinguished visitors shared with less known Americans the general confusion caused by the money shortage and joined the line trying to get cash at the various banks.

Bank notes for 50,000,000 marks is practically the only currency available, and as nobody could change these many tourists had to open bank accounts and issue their personal checks to pay hotel bills and buy railroad tickets. Many tourists are stranded in the resorts from the Baltic sea to the Bavarian highlands, being unable to travel because they can't raise money on their letters of credit.

The situation is similar to that existing when war was declared and many Americans were caught in the swirl unable to realize on the travelers checks of credit. Gold alone was good then, but now gold isn't in demand and it is impossible to exchange the large denomination American or English bills for marks, or dollar or pound notes.

NOTICE

Having qualified as Administrator on the estate of John W. Venable deed all persons holding claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned within 12 months from date of this notice will be pleased in bar of recovery. Also all persons owing said estate will please make immediate settlement. This the 23rd day of August, 1923. J. R. VENABLE, Administrator.

OUR STATE ROAD SYSTEM ON SOUND BASIS

Six Million Dollars Being Collected Annually To Pay the Bill—Automobiles and Gas Doing It—Everybody Riding and Happy.

This from the Richmond Times—
"A confirmed pay-as-you-goist might tell you that North Carolina's use of credit to construct highways has bankrupted the state, but that is not the impression one gains as he travels through that section. It is not the view of North Carolinians themselves and it is not the view of the country in general. The fact is that North Carolina, once the butt of many crude jokes, now is one of the most progressive, flourishing states in the union. It is a model of community thrift. Ask the business man down there if he thinks the issuance of bonds is an unpardonable economic act and he will laugh at you. He will tell you it is the only way to build roads so expeditiously as to give the present generation the benefit of them."

If the bankruptcy of North Carolina, a result of issuing bonds for money to pay for a state highway system, should be used effectively by the opposition to bonds in Virginia—things stranger, more absurd have happened; but not much more. The advocates of highways in the Old Dominion ought to be able to get across the state line the information that North Carolina roads are carrying their own bonds. There is every reason to believe that at present there is a progressive excess of expenditures over revenue; but no road expenditures are involved in this computation, and the revenues applying are those derived from income, inheritance and special taxes. No ad valorem taxes are levied for any state purpose, and whatever may be the condition of the state treasury, the property of North Carolinians, real and personal, is a revenue asset wholly untouched by the state.

Highway financing is a thing apart. There are bonds authorized for construction to the amount of 65 million dollars, and bonds to the amount of about \$35,000,000 have been sold. The highway income last year, that is to say, revenues from license tax on motor cars and tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline, was between six million and seven million dollars. Inasmuch as this item will run over seven million dollars this year, (fuel tax increased two cents) it is safe assumption that it can be depended on as a steady source of income, increasing in prosperous years; perhaps decreasing sharply in periods of depression. We thus have, to put it conservatively, an income of six million dollars with which to carry an eventual load of \$65,000,000 of debt, although at present carrying only \$35,000,000 of debt. Something like two million dollars is being used to maintain the roads that have been built, and to keep in the best possible condition those that are unimproved. Whether the state will authorize a still greater expenditure for construction, and whether the license and gasoline tax will always be sufficient to carry such expenditures as the people may wish to make in building roads, are questions for future determination. At present North Carolina highway construction is on an absolutely sound financial basis.

A state official has declared that the improvement of the roads of the state is increasing automobile sales throughout North Carolina immensely. "Last year 208,000 license tags were issued; estimates now are that the number issued this year will be 245,000.

The only known method by which Virginia could build a system of roads that would be of assistance and profit to the present generation is by issuing bonds. The North Carolina system of carrying a debt of that nature is not recommended as ideal; but by general agreement, in any event motor cars should pay license, and the use of roads should be further taxed on a mileage basis, or fuel consumption basis, which is the simplest way of approximating a ten-mile basis. There is no doubt that shortly after the inauguration of a general construction scheme Virginia revenue from this source would begin to show a progressive increase. The roads could be made to carry their own debt, in this sense, for a time at least. This leaves out of consideration the enhancement of property values by means of transportation economy, which is probably wrong, in North Carolina, or Virginia, or anywhere else.—Greensboro News.