

## A. W. GEORGE MUST SERVE 5-YEAR TERM

### Supreme Court Finds No Error in Trial of Elkin Banker Convicted at Dobson

Raleigh, Nov. 19.—The Supreme court of North Carolina in its decision handed down today upheld the Superior court of Surry county in its verdict that A. W. George, president and cashier of the Farmer's bank of Elkin, was guilty of making false entries in the books of that bank with intent to defraud or injure the corporation, its officers and agents and other persons.

The sentence imposed on George by the lower court was not less than five nor more than seven years in state's prison.

Indictment of George as presented to the Superior court of Surry county before Judge Lyons held that the defendant made a certificate of deposit of \$2,000 while the entry stub showed only \$20. The state admitted that the amount shown on the stub was not in the handwriting of George but showed to the satisfaction of the court that he made out the deposit slip and part of the stub in ink, the amount \$20 on the stub being made out in pencil.

Defendant appealed on the grounds that the court refused to instruct jury to the effect that defendant contended that there were other evidences to show false entries made by him during 1919-20 of which the competency is not questioned.

Justice Stacey wrote the opinion. Attorney General Manning and Assistant Nash appeared for the state and J. H. Folger for the defendant.

With the final hearing before the Supreme Court in the case of A. W. George, of Elkin, and the approval of the verdict rendered by a Surry county jury, is brought to a close, as far as the courts are concerned, a case that has been hard fought from the beginning and one that has required the closest attention on the part of Solicitor Graves to get the facts properly before the courts.

To this day there are many people who hold to the view that Mr. George was the tool of his friends, but if he was never "squealed" on them during the hearing and it is reported that his attorneys were never able to learn anything further about the failure of his bank than that brought out at the trial.

Mr. George was brought to trial before a jury twice. The first time resulted in a mistrial on account of the illness of a juror. In prosecuting the case the Solicitor put on evidence showing that Mr. George, as the bank's president and cashier, had speculated with the funds entrusted to his care for his own private gain, and that of his friends associated with him; that the speculations proved a failure and thus brought about the closing of the bank when it was learned he was short in his funds more than fifty thousand dollars. Many of these amounts were the lifetime savings of his neighbors and former friends of Yadkin county where he was held in highest esteem. At the same time the Treasurer of Surry county had tied up in the bank more than \$20,000. The matter of this money of the county being thus lost was taken in charge by W. J. Byerly when he became county commissioner and he at once took steps to require the treasurer and his bondsmen to make good this amount. And right now the county holds notes from F. S. Eldridge, former county treasurer, making good this loss which notes are properly endorsed by his bondsmen.

It is supposed to be about two weeks before the papers are mailed from Raleigh to the Clerk of Court. When the Clerk receives official notice of the action of the Supreme Court it becomes his duty to at once issue commitment papers ordering the Sheriff to convey the defendant to the State penitentiary. Unless some steps are taken by counsel for Mr. George to get a respite from the Governor he is likely to begin serving his sentence before the coming of the new year.

## BANKER GETS EIGHT YEARS

### Judge Agrees Capias Not To Issue Until December 30 If Restitution Made

Wilmington, Nov. 22.—Thomas E. Cooper, former president of the defunct Liberty Savings bank, of this city was this afternoon sentenced to serve eight years on the county roads following his conviction by a jury of violating the state banking laws by making excessive loans when the reserve of the Liberty bank was below par.

C. Rourk, former cashier of the bank, indicted jointly with Cooper, was found not guilty.

Cooper filed notice of an appeal to the supreme court and Judge Grady fixed his bond at \$25,000 pending the appeal.

Cooper arranged bond during the afternoon and was released from custody. While the court indicated that capias would not issue until December 30, if the defendant complied with the conditions suggested, it is understood that failure of his attorneys to submit to a felony charge leaves the latter two to be tried at a later date and the sentence of eight years on the roads effective unless the supreme court grants a new trial.

Lieutenant Governor W. B. Cooper was in court when his brother was sentenced by Judge Grady.

The jury's verdict as to Rourk seems to have met public approval.

Cooper is a brother of W. B. Cooper, lieutenant governor of North Carolina, who is also a banker. The family of the convicted man is prominently connected in banking circles in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

## Faces Charges of Felony

Declared guilty of four counts in seven, in two bills of indictment, by the jury trying the case, Cooper was sentenced to two years on the roads on each of the four counts, making a total of eight years, by Judge Henry A. Grady. Notice of appeal to the supreme court was given by attorneys for the defendant and bond was fixed at \$25,000. Jos. C. Rourk former cashier of the bank, who was tried jointly with Cooper was declared "not guilty" by the jury.

There are two charges of felony yet on the docket against Cooper. Failure of his attorneys to submit to these caused Judge Grady to strike from his judgment conditions to the effect that if Cooper made restitution to the bank of approximately \$165,000, if he agreed to resign forthwith as a member of the board of education of New Hanover county, and if he would agree never to engage in banking again in North Carolina, then, if these conditions were met, that judgment in four charges against the defendant would be suspended. The attorneys for Cooper took the position that submission to a felony would be unfair to the defendant and his family and would place Cooper always under the control of the solicitor, and for these reasons they could not justly enter such submissions. Upon this announcement, Judge Grady ordered that all conditions and qualifications in the sentence be eliminated therefrom. The judgment then remained as a direct combined sentence of eight years on the county roads of New Hanover county, from which appeal to the supreme court was noted.

## Declines to Submit

The cases against Rourk and Cooper were given to the jury Friday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The jury deliberated through the night, entering court at 9 a. m. Saturday. Court was then convened, the verdict of the jury being rendered before many spectators. This verdict was that Cooper was guilty on four of the seven charges as carried in the two bills of indictment and that Rourk was not guilty.

Extra Meeker, ninety-four years old, flew from Vancouver, Washington, to Washington, D. C., over the trail he covered in 1852 in a wagon train. It took him five months to make the journey in 1852 and the return trip, piloted by Lieutenant O. J. Kelley, was made in twenty four, flying time.

## ARE TOBACCO PRICES BEING KEPT DOWN?

### Manufacturers and Dealers in Leaf Accused of Padding Their "Stocks On Hand"

Washington, Nov. 20.—Charges that manufacturers and dealers in leaf tobacco pad their figures of stocks on hand to keep down prices are being laid before officials of the government for presentation to the President's agricultural commission. With the showing in published reports of enormous stocks of tobacco available in factories and warehouses a false application of the law of supply and demand is resorted to and the grower receives less for his product than it is felt by the complainants he is justly entitled to.

With the organization of the agricultural commission, representatives of the producers are beginning to present through government channels their various complaints. In the case of tobacco, it is claimed that the producers would greatly be relieved from the effects of a bad market through the adoption in the trade of standard grades.

It is proposed that trading in standard grades be made compulsory, probably in line with the standards for cotton. The use of these standards would govern also in the presentation of reports to the various government statistical bureaus to which dealers in tobacco have to submit data.

The claim is made that much of the tobacco carried as "in stock" by manufacturers and dealers, is of such a low grade as to be fit only for use as fertilizer, yet this tobacco is reported in common with the grades that actually can be used in the manufacture of tobacco products. It is complained that this recognition of poor grades in arriving at the supply of tobacco in the United States has only the effect of swelling the "on hand" stocks to make it appear that the supply is in excess of the requirements, and as a consequence lowering the price which the grower receives.

Representatives of the Kentucky producers assert that as much as one-fifth of the "burley tobacco reported as on hand by the factories and dealers in that kind of tobacco on October 1, is good fertilizer material only and not suitable for tobacco products manufacturing. Reports of stocks on hand as of that date show a visible supply of burley leaf of 428,332,000 pounds.

## Johnson Offered An Increase to Sign Up

Washington, Nov. 24.—Clark C. Griffith, president of the Washington baseball team, said today that Walter Johnson, veteran pitcher, had not signed a new contract with the Senators, but that Joe Engel, scout, had been authorized to offer Johnson the choice of two contracts, both providing for increases in salary.

Mr. Griffith made his statement, however, on the golf links, and there was a possibility, he indicated, that a signed contract either was in the mails or in the unopened correspondence at headquarters of the world champions.

Both propositions offered Johnson, Griffith said, called for increases over the \$12,000 the star twirler is reported to have received last year, one being for one year and the other for two. He added that there was no foundation for rumors that Johnson was to receive \$30,000 a year. The \$12,000 salary, he remarked was on a par with the highest paid to any pitcher in baseball.

## Hillsville-Stuart Road Improved

Martinsville, Nov. 11.—Further development of highways in Patrick County which until the past year has been considered inaccessible to vehicles in winter weather is reported yesterday. The State road from Martinsville to Stuart has been completed, that is the numerous stretches of red dirt have been top soiled giving a continuous and uniformly good and broad road to the Patrick county seat. This road has been generally speaking in good condition throughout the summer but there were some stretches of two and three hundred yards on which no top soil had been placed, and in wet weather these stretches proved treacherous.

The improved road from Stuart to Hillsville was also completed last

## Ex-PRES. HARDING'S WIDOW PASSES

### Death Came After A Long Illness

Marion, Nov. 22.—A little stone tomb in Marion cemetery next Monday evening will be the scene of the final meeting to part no more of Mr. and Mrs. Warren G. Harding.

Mrs. Harding died early Friday at the home of Dr. Carl W. Sawyer, son of the late Dr. C. E. Sawyer, President Harding's physician. She had been critically ill for several weeks at White Oaks farm, the Sawyer home where she had been living. Her body will be placed in the tomb in Marion cemetery beside that of her husband.

The end came peacefully to the widow of the late President of the United States at 8:55 o'clock while a brother and close friends stood by. She did not recognize them, however for early in the evening before she had lapsed into the death coma.

Only 15 months ago Mrs. Harding leaning on the arm of George B. Christian, Jr., private secretary to President Harding, followed the bier of her husband to the little tomb and saw it placed tenderly inside there to await her coming. Rows of soldiers stood at attention as their commander-in-chief was consigned to a temporary resting place in the tomb.

Four weeks ago today Mrs. Harding visited the tomb and talked personally with every member of the military guard which has been on duty there since he died.

## Tom P. Jimison May Head New Publication in this State

Winston-Salem, Nov. 20.—Morris A. Bealle, formerly business manager of the Hendersonville Times, was here today for a conference with Tom P. Jimison, of Spencer, to discuss a publication, which it is understood Mr. Jimison, a former Methodist pastor, will head at some point in North Carolina. Mr. Bealle is en route to Washington, his former home, to which point he will proceed after a business trip to Raleigh and Charlotte.

He states that John Temple Graves, a nationally known newspaper writer who has been editor of the Hendersonville paper since it entered the Daily newspaper field, has resigned and has gone to Palm Beach, Fla., where he has accepted an editorial position with the Palm Beach Post.

## Leopold and Loeb Get Positions on Faculty

Chicago, Nov. 12.—Nathan F. Leopold, Jr., and Richard Loeb, serving life sentences in the Joliet penitentiary for the kidnapping-murder of Robert Franks, will be members of the faculty of the prison, Warden Whitman announced.

Leopold is teaching night classes in English, devoting two hours a night in instruction in reading, writing and spelling. Next week Loeb will take charge of an arithmetic class. The duties will be in addition to their jobs in the prison shops.

## Run Out I. W. W.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 12.—About 225 alleged members of the I. W. W. were loaded into six automobile trucks near Concrete, Washington, today by Sheriff Conn, of Skagit county and a force of deputies, taken to the Snohomish county line, and told to keep going.

## DR. PEACOCK RELATES VARIED EXPERIENCES

### LEGAL VICTORY WON BY CO-OPERATIVES

#### In Virginia Court—If Defendant Acks Another To Sign for Him It Stands

Raleigh, Nov. 22.—A legal victory for the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association was won in Virginia Wednesday of last week before Judge Gordon, holding Circuit Court at Amherst, when a jury returned the verdict that failure to sign the contract of the marketing association did not excuse a member from full performance of the contract in a case where the defendant had requested the solicitor for the association to sign the contract for him.

The defendant in this case according to the evidence had stopped a solicitor of the association on the road and asked him to sign the contract for him. Later believing that he could avoid the terms of the contract, because he had not signed it, this member of the marketing association sold tobacco on the auction market.

The jury found that the defendant had authorized the solicitor to sign the association contract for him and returned a verdict of five cents a pound liquidated damages for every pound which it was proved he had sold on the auction warehouse floors. In addition to this the defendant was made to pay five cents a pound damages for 600 pounds of tobacco which was raised on his land but which both he and his wife testified was her "holiday crop."

In another case tried before Judge E. H. Cramer of the Superior Court at Roxboro, on the same day, it was held that a member of the tobacco association who has made his tenancy arrangements and later rents to a non-member for cash rent, is responsible for the delivery of the non-member's tobacco.

## Hiccough Epidemic Is Afflicting Gastonia

Gastonia, Nov. 13.—Gastonia has an epidemic of hiccoughs. Local physicians and druggists are authority for the statement that within the past two weeks there has been a large number of cases of this strange disease. At least one patient hiccoughed for several days and was in a very serious condition. One physician stated that probably a dozen cases have come under his observation within the past two weeks.

Not a day passes, say local druggists, that people do not come in and ask for something to give them relief from this disease. From information gathered from conversation with physicians, hiccoughing is just about as baffling a disease as they have to contend with. It seems that medical science knows very little about its cause or its cure. One physician says that practically every known remedy to be found in a drug store has been tried for it. Sometimes a remedy works on one person and fails on another. The old home cure remedy of a drink of cold water frequently relieves it but seems to fall in the case of an epidemic such as this.

Gastonia has in the past had at least one death on record from hiccoughs. In that case the patient hiccoughed for seven or eight days and died.

## Co-ops Win Cases

Winston-Salem, Nov. 12.—The Co-operative association won out in most of the 48 cases tried in the Superior court here, wherein members were charged with selling leaf tobacco on the auction warehouse floors here in violation of their contract with the association. Only a few cases were dismissed. Each case was tried by jury and in the complaint the association asked for five cents per pound on all leaf sold on the open market by these.

## Victim of Dog Bite

Henderson, Nov. 12.—Little Ella Currin Rux, ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Rux, of this city, passed quietly away Monday morning as the result of a seemingly insignificant bite from a small stray puppy some seven weeks ago. On Thursday afternoon she began to show alarming symptoms and every effort was made to combat the malady. Contrary to the usual course of the disease, the little girl was conscious and quiet almost to the end.

## Writes Letter to Friend About His Trip From Florida to California.

Lexington, Nov. 18.—The Dispatch of this place publishes an interesting account of the wanderings and experiences of Dr. J. W. Peacock, formerly of Thomasville, and slayer of Chief Taylor of that city. Dr. Peacock, in a letter to a friend, tells of his activities since his arrival in Florida following his escape from the North Carolina penitentiary, up to his recent successful fight against extradition in California. The letter follows:

"We are located in a beautiful little valley about fifteen miles back from the coast—far enough from the ocean to get away from the fog, yet not far enough inland to be too warm in summer. Every day is fair and the nights are always cool. Beautiful mountains surround it on every side. One can get in a car and drive from oranges to snow in one hour. Madame Schumann-Heink, Carl Jacobs Bond and Owen Winter live here.

"We have been treated very kindly by the people here, especially since the recent extradition fight.

"Perhaps you would be interested to know about my movements after I left Florida. I did not leave Florida immediately after the contest there, but remained near Lakeland till the following April. I then procured a Ford and camping equipment and James (my elder son) and I started west, April, 1923. We struck one flood after another in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. At Jonesville La., we found the road four feet under water for thirty miles. So I hired a man to take my car by boat up Black river till we came to the foothills. After we got by eastern Texas we got out of the rains and had easy sailing from there on, except crossing some deserts.

"My intention was to go to British Columbia, but upon reaching Sacramento I found my funds were almost exhausted, so I turned east into El Dorado county and took a carpenter job with a large water power company that was working 10,000 men developing a water power in the mountains. Soon the foreman of our gang quit and I undertook to fill his place! My, how I studied blueprints at night and worked my head off to make good! I got by o. k. and saved \$500 in three months.

"As the work was nearing completion, I began to form plans to go into Mexico and find a location to practice my profession. I had met a brother to one of the Mexican generals and he had given me valuable information. I began studying Spanish and in October I landed in Tepic, Negrit, Mexico. Tepic has 16,000 inhabitants and one doctor! It is about a thousand miles below the border and is in the most beautiful country I have ever seen.

"As luck would have it, the revolution soon broke out and Tepic was one of the first cities seized by the rebels. They raided the hotel where I was staying and took all their money and motor truck. I was not molested, although I had over \$500 in my pocket. I was advised, however, to go back to the States while getting out was good.

"I went to Bisbee, Arizona, and opened up a small grocery store and put James in school. By the way, they claim to have the finest public schools in the U. S. A.

"I left Bisbee, selling out the store and came to San Diego the last of March. My wife joined me here, and we selected the beautiful little ranch in El Cajon. Later, the rest of the family joined us here.

"In my rambles, I had two miraculous escapes from death. We were placing a heavy concrete mixer on a platform in the side of a mountain. One of the jacks flew out and knocked me off the platform. As I fell I managed to catch with my left hand. That was all that saved me from a sheer drop of a thousand feet.

"When crossing the Mojave desert, our water bag sprung a leak and we found ourselves out of water. I drove fifty-one miles without a drop of water, and of course, the engine was soon dry too! I would drive till the engine was red hot, then stop and let it cool; then go again. All day long we kept this up! Just about dark we came to water. And truly, it was the water of life!"