

## John Atkins Shoots Up Police Station in Richmond, Indiana

Empties Pistol at Officers in Effort to "Get Even" For a Former Arrest—Had Previously Tried to Set Neighbor's House on Fire.

### IS CHARGED WITH BEING CRIMINALLY INSANE

Friends of John A. Atkins, former Mount Airy citizen, but now residing in Richmond, Indiana, have received a copy of the Richmond Items, a daily paper of that city, giving an account of the serious trouble that Atkins must face in the courts of that state. Atkins left this city two years ago and settled on a large farm near Richmond, Ind. Some time before leaving here he was convicted and heavily punished in the Recorder's court for dealing in liquor and reports reaching this city say that the neighbors have reported him to the officers as dealing in liquor out there. On Dec. 13th he had a difficulty with a neighbor, Omer Young, supposed to be over Atkins being reported as a suspected liquor dealer. As a result Atkins attempted to burn some of the buildings of Young, but was caught in the act and is now under a \$5,000 bond for that offense.

On last Wednesday the newspaper reports that he went on another "rampage", during which he set out to get even with the police force of the city. With a pistol in his right hand and a shot gun and 12 shells on the seat by his side, he drove to the city police station where he opened fire without ceremony while seated in his car. He emptied his pistol into the crowd of officers who happened to be in the office, without hitting any one. He then secured his shot gun and was in the act of putting it into use when he was overpowered by the officers.

Below we publish the full account of his last "episode" as published in the Richmond, Indiana, Items:

**Crazy Man Bombs City Hall, Opens Fire in Wild Move to "Get" Police. John Atkins, On Second Rampage Is Finally Overpowered and Jailed. Five Shots Were Fired Blazed Away From Auto; Machine Hit Pole, Leading to Capture.**

Believed to have been crazed by liquor, John Atkins, farmer living on the Garwood road, was overpowered and lodged in the county jail Tuesday evening after he had emptied his revolver at police headquarters while driving by in an automobile. He is slated on charges of shooting with intent to kill and as being criminally insane.

Atkins was taken into custody by Chief W. F. Eversman, Sergeant Ed. McNally and Officer Hickman after his car collided with a post directly across the street from police station. The farmer was attempting to load a shotgun when officers overpowered him, Chief Eversman said. He is believed to have set out on an expedition to "get" city and county officials who arrested him last month following a similar "rampage."

Authorities said he had been drinking. Last night the prisoner was in the county jail, every precaution being taken by Sheriff Dan Chapman to prevent his escape or possible injury to other prisoners.

One of the bullets from the revolver, which was a .32 calibre weapon went through the glass in a transom over the south door of No. One hose house and lodged in the door frame of Chief Miller's office. The other four bullets fired were not located last night but no damage was done as far as could be ascertained.

The bombardment, which took place at 5 o'clock, came as a surprise to men stationed at headquarters. At first it was believed that an automobile motor was backfiring, the shots coming in rapid succession. Chief Eversman, however, from his office was able to see Atkins as he repeatedly fired at the building.

According to the chief, Atkins was alone in a small touring car which he was driving south on Fifth street. He held the wheel with his left hand while he handled the revolver with his right, the chief said. Immediately upon determining the source of the shots, Chief Eversman, Sergeant McNally and Officer Hickman plunged out the alleyway at the south side of the city building to apprehend the gunman. By that time Atkins' ma-

chine had collided with the post, struck another car and stalled the engine.

As the officers approached the automobile Atkins crawled out on the opposite side and, pulling a double-barrel shotgun from the car, attempted to load it. Investigation showed that he had 12 shells for the weapon, which was a 12 gauge gun. Four extra cartridges for the revolver were found on his person.

When questioned as to his intentions Atkins calmly asked the police what the trouble was and disclaimed knowledge of having fired at the building, Chief Eversman said.

Atkins had been at liberty on \$5,000 bond following his indictment by the grand jury on three counts, burglary, shooting with intent to kill and malicious destruction of property, as a result of alleged attacks on Omer Young, a neighbor, and efforts to set fire to Young's house. He was arrested on the night of Dec. 13 after a wild chase in which police fired at him repeatedly as he fled in the darkness. He admitted at that time that he had been drinking liniment, police said.

Neighbors of Atkins Tuesday afternoon became aware of the fact that he was on another "rampage" and called Chief Eversman and Sheriff Chapman. The calls, however, were received only a few minutes after Atkins' attack on the city building and his subsequent arrest.

### Negro King Uses Bullet of Gold to Kill Himself

(From the Detroit News)  
Christophe, who was king of Hayti from 1811 to 1820 and who was a full-blooded negro who entered as a private soldier in the army of Toussaint L'Ouverture to fight the French, became a leader under Toussaint's successor, Dessalines, and after the murder of the latter was strong enough to have himself elected President of Hayti.

When his power was contested by Gen. Petion he retreated to the north of the island, there had himself proclaimed king and built his famous "Citadel". His reign was as despotic and cruel as that of Nero. Even his death was dramatic.

Having suffered from a stroke of apoplexy, which all his charms and voodoo spells could not cure, he decided to commit suicide. But not in the ordinary way. He was determined that his manner of taking off should be worthy of a great King. He had a golden bullet made for his pistol, and with it he shot himself.

### Arizona House Ratifies Amendment

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 19.—The House of Representatives of the Arizona legislature today passed by a vote of 41 to 3 a resolution ratifying the child labor amendment to the Federal constitution. The resolution was sent to the Senate.

## World Flight Cheap at \$177,481, Members Congress Feel

Actual Figure \$114,482.99, When Regular Expenses Are Deducted—Cost of Navy Tenders Not Considered, as Ships Would Have Been in Use, Anyway.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Members of Congress are showing a lively interest in the cost of the history-making world flight made by the Army Air Service last year.

The total cost of the flight to the Air Service as compiled to date is \$177,481.35. Of this total it is estimated \$62,998.36 represents expenses that would have been incurred on a flight of similar proportions and duration entirely within the United States. This leaves an actual cost of \$114,482.99, which does not include the cost of the planes used, the motors, spare parts and pay of personnel.

Indirect expenses of course, are not taken into account in these figures. They would involve the cost of fuel burned by destroyers in the Pacific, by Coast Guard cutters and other ves-

### SHARP DIVISION OVER VOLUME OF HIGHWAY BONDS

Governor and Others Take the View That State's Credit May Be Put in Jeopardy.

Raleigh, Jan. 19.—While the general assembly marks time, awaiting definite recommendations from Governor McLean, on the administration's desired program of legislation, conflict of legislative and executive sentiment over the extent of further expenditures for highway construction stands as the most interesting situation of the session.

The assembly is for \$35,000,000 more of bonds. It doubtless would vote 50 millions more if it had the chance. The popularity of the road program finds response among the solons, and the majority of them are for as much more as it will require to complete the system, however, much that may be.

Governor McLean, the budget commission and others who have been considering the state's finances and its financial relationships, however, hold out little hope for a greater expenditure on further road building than 10 or 12 millions a year for the next two years. So as apparently the statesmanship job this session will be holding back the legislators whereas four years ago the big drive for 50 millions came from the executive and the preliminary fight for an advantage in the assembly was a fierce one.

In talking with newspaper men this afternoon Governor McLean recognized the strong legislative sentiment for a 35 million or even a 50 million dollar issue. He pointed out, however, that the state can hardly afford at this time to undertake to handle such an amount.

The situation which prompts the governor and budget makers to favor restricting expenditures to the minimum amount relates not so much to the state's financial condition as to the wisdom of protecting North Carolina's standing in the bond market. Financial advisors have suggested a rest and substantial reasons have been advanced to support the suggestion.

North Carolina has placed nearly a hundred million dollars worth of bonds on the market in the last four years. To throw 35 millions more on top of that would endanger the state's financial standing and possibly result in a great loss through the necessity of making unfavorable sales of the additional issues.

Highway Chairman Frank Page is understood to concur in the view that expenditures should be restricted to 10 or 12 millions a year for the next two years. He has conferred with members of the budget commission and they have asked him to supply them with information as to the actual needs of the commission for further road building.

When the legislature gets the facts it likely will accept the view of the governor.

Mr. McLean incidentally has specified no amount for road construction. His recommendation on road bonds will await the report of the budget commission and correct information on the state's financial condition.

Members in Alaskan waters, by scout cruisers and destroyers in the North Atlantic and sundry and various other items. While these indirect costs were great, the vessels assigned to patrol the route and render assistance to the world flyers, with few exceptions, would have been otherwise employed if not engaged on this project. Most members of Congress apparently are satisfied with the achievement of the Air Service and feel that the enterprise was worth much more than it costs, regardless of what the actual figures may be. When the flight was contemplated Major Gen. Mason M. Patrick, Chief of the Air Service, asked for the appropriation of \$50,000 for contingent expenses, stating frankly that this would not pay for the flight.

### WOULD ABOLISH STATE PRIMARY

Representative Barker Would Have Law Enacted to Prevent Criticism of Juries

Raleigh, Jan. 19.—Representative W. W. New's bill to abolish the statewide primary formed the most important piece of legislation introduced at tonight's session of the general assembly, which convened at 7:30 tonight and adjourned within half an hour to give place to the exercises held in the hall of the house of representatives in honor of Lee's birthday. Adjournment was in honor of the Confederate military chief.

Representative Barker of Surry introduced a bill in the house designed to prohibit judges from criticizing the verdicts of juries.

The house passed on its third reading the bill authorizing an increase of \$150,000 in the appropriation for the erection of new state building, making the total \$850,000.

The house passed on its third reading the bill allowing county commissioners to exempt from paying peddler's license disabled veterans of the world war.

A number of new local bills were introduced in the house, running the total number of bills introduced in the lower branch so far to 141.

No important legislation is expected until after the delivery of Governor McLean's message Wednesday at noon. There are no bills pending involving the fiscal policy of the state due to the delay in the submission of the revenue bill and the extension of time allowed for the budget commission to report. Members of the commission this morning reiterated previous assertions that there can, at this time, be no definite forecasts as to the available revenues for the coming biennial period or just how much of an increase will be necessary to meet necessary appropriations.

A tentative draft of the revenue bill has been ready for several days but it was not deemed wise to submit it to the legislature before the budget commission completed its report, as further findings of the commission might make it necessary to change some of the important features, it was said.

It was indicated last week that the framers of the revenue bill have abandoned altogether the idea of the sales tax and will not consider the taxation of real and personal property for state purposes. Further, it was indicated that the heaviest raise will be on incomes. Further than this there has been no authoritative information. Speculation has been rife as to the amount of additional revenue it will take to run the state and its institutions for the coming biennial period. However, no one has ventured to give a statement dealing in estimates. None of those to whom the task of finding means to raise the revenue is assigned is willing to be quoted on how much it will take. However, numerous guesses have been made.

Governor McLean was back in his office today after having spent Sunday with Mrs. McLean at Lumberton. He was preparing for the delivery of his message Wednesday and conferring with legislative leaders. The governor will make no full statement as to the state's fiscal policy until he has gone fully into all questions upon which he must base his findings, he has stated. He will not discuss it in his message Wednesday, but will appear later for that purpose, when he is ready to announce his policies in detail. He is not prepared at this time to go into a discussion as to the amount of bonds which it will be necessary for the state to issue. He says frankly, he does not know and will not until he has studied to the fullest extent the findings of the budget commission and until he receives and digests the figures on how much it has been taking to run the state and its institutions.

West Swansy, N. H., Jan. 15.—The Homestead woolen mills here were compelled to shut down today because the water at a grate leading to the water wheel was shut off by a jam of fish, suckers weighing from one to two and one-half pounds, were raked out.

### Fish Cause Woolen Mill To Shut Down for Period

A watchman has been placed at the grate to rake away the fish and prevent another jam. Residents of the town carried home fish by the sackful.

## Tobacco Co-op Association Makes Sale Figures Public

Of 343 Million Pounds Delivered From 1922 and 1923 Crops 15 Million Remain Unsold

### MARKED DECREASE IN TOBACCO CROP

1924 Tobacco Crop in U. S. Reduced by 250 Million Pounds According to Officials

Washington, D. C.—The tobacco crop of 1,213,975,000 pounds shows a decrease from last year of 261,000,000 pounds, according to the Bureau of Agriculture. The Bureau in discussing the tobacco crop situation continues:

"Bright tobacco shows a decrease of 115,000,000 pounds, cigar types 63,000,000 pounds, and Maryland and Eastern Ohio export 1,817,000 pounds. Separate figures for other types are not yet available.

"The Bureau has just made public the preliminary production figures for this year which gives the yield at 1,213,975,000 pounds as compared with 1,481,066,000 pounds last year and for the five-year average, 1918 through 1922, 1,360,651,000 pounds. This year's yield per acre is given at 713 pounds, as compared with 810 pounds last year and 799 pounds for the ten-year average.

"The tobacco crop area for this year is given at 1,072,000 acres as compared with 1,842,000 acres last year, and the five-year average for 1918 through 1922 of 1,736,000 acres.

### ECLIPSE OF SUN JANUARY 24

Will Be Total in Northern Part of United States—Only Partial in North Carolina.

Washington, Jan. 7.—On the 24th day of January, there will occur in the skies something that you probably will never see again—a total eclipse of the sun, in some places, and a partial eclipse over the greater part of the United States. Caution all drivers to go slowly.

If you live in a belt 100 miles wide and 5,000 miles long and flung from northern Minnesota and Michigan, over the Great Lakes to New York, Long Island, Connecticut and Rhode Island, parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts, you will see the flaming sun blotted out on the morning of the twenty-fourth.

For the first time in more than a hundred years the moon will pass between the earth and the sun, throwing its shadow on our sphere. It is the first total eclipse of the sun visible in this section of the country since 1806.

The eclipse will be total in Duluth, Buffalo, New York City, New Haven and many other large cities in this part of the country. The partial eclipse will be very large, nearly total in some of the largest cities in the United States including Boston, Providence, Albany, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Chicago. Even as far South as New Orleans, and as far west as St. Louis and Omaha, the partial eclipse will be large.

The total eclipse in New York City will take place about 9.10 a. m. and the time of the greatest eclipse for most of the cities in the east that keep eastern standard time will vary but a few minutes from this time. The partial eclipse will begin about eight o'clock in the same section, and the eclipse will be over about half past ten.

### Man Who Knew 53 Languages is Dead

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 17.—Professor Carl J. Arnell, credited with being master of 53 languages, from the Eskimo to that of the African Hottentots and including all the leading languages of the world, died here recently.

He was secretary to American ambassadors to Japan for 12 years and was the second white man to complete the course in Oriental languages in the Imperial university of Tokio. It was said that he knew the Japanese and Chinese languages as few natives did. On leaving the American embassy at Tokio Mr. Arnell became a professor in two universities in the Japanese capital. When his health broke down four years ago, the Japanese government returned him to the United States on a battleship.

The January issue of the Tri-State Tobacco Grower, official organ of the Cooperative Association carried a statement of the amount of tobacco purchased by the Association produced during the years 1922 and 1923 and the amount of these crops which remain unsold. Below we publish the entire report which will be of interest to many of our readers:

"Our Association has set a record in its sales for the big tobacco co-operatives of the United States. We have been successful in selling a much larger proportion of the tobacco delivered by our members than any of the other large tobacco associations in this country since their organization.

Some of our members have recently expressed a desire to know the exact amount of tobacco from the crops of 1922 and 1923 which are now on hand. We take pleasure and pride in stating the complete record of our receipts and present holdings of tobacco from the crops of 1922 and 1923 reported by General Manager Richard R. Patterson as follows:

Receipts of 1922 Crop  
Bright, Va., N. C., and S. C. Tobacco.....133,186,149  
Dark-Fired Va. Tobacco.....26,824,276  
Sun-Cured Va. Tobacco.....3,579,644  
163,590,169

Receipts of 1923 Crop  
Bright, Va., N. C., and S. C. Tobacco.....152,968,715  
Dark-Fired Va. Tobacco.....24,149,287  
Sun-Cured Va. Tobacco.....3,019,950  
180,137,952

1922 Tobacco on Hand  
Old Belt, Va., and N. C. Bright Tobacco.....764,000  
Dark-Fired Va. Tobacco.....1,244,000  
Sun-Cured Va. Tobacco.....186,000  
Eastern N. C. Tobacco, all sold  
South Carolina Belt Tobacco, all sold.....2,194,000

1923 Tobacco on Hand  
Old Belt, N. C., and Va., Bright Tobacco.....4,350,000  
S. C. Belt Tobacco.....18,000  
Eastern Carolina Belt Tobacco.....22,000  
Dark-Fired Va. Tobacco.....8,358,000  
Sun-Cured Va. Tobacco, all sold.....12,748,000

Total of 1922 and 1923 tobacco on hand.....14,942,000

Of the South Carolina tobaccos delivered to our Association there are 1,259,000 pounds which have been sold but not yet delivered to our customers and 496,000 pounds of the Eastern Carolina deliveries of 1923 tobaccos have been sold but not yet delivered. In accordance with the custom of the trade these tobaccos will not be paid for until delivered and inspected.

The man who perils in trying to discourage tobacco farmers from organizing is still saying that the Association will not last ninety days. He has been saying this ever since the members of the Association began delivering tobacco. But in spite of all the opposition against the Association and the constant propaganda with which speculative interests have attempted to keep the farmers from organizing, the fact remains that our Association has been successful in selling all but 15,000,000 pounds of the 343,000,000 pounds of tobacco delivered to it during its first two seasons of operation.

### Evidence in Big Case Is 21,360 Pages

Charlotte, Jan. 13.—J. Howard McLean, official stenographer and reporter in the \$2,700,000 suit and counter suit of the Hardaway Construction Company against the Western Carolina Power Company has turned over to J. E. Swain, of Asheville, referee in the case, 21,360 pages of typewritten matter constituting the evidence of the case. The evidence has been included in 157 volumes. The testimony is said to be the most voluminous ever taken in any legal hearing in North Carolina. The first hearing was held September 12, 1921, the last May 13, 1924. General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, was the last witness examined.