

KILLED BY PONY

Guilford County Farmer Thrown From Buggy

Harper Hodgkin Met Sudden Death—
Formal Opening of Y. M. C. A. Building—County Commissioners Indicted—Moonshine Case.

(Special to The Times.)

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 6.—Within half a mile of his home late yesterday afternoon Harper Hodgkin met an almost sudden death when a pony, which he was driving swerved suddenly from the road and precipitated him from the buggy. Mr. Hodgkin is one of the best and most prosperous farmers of Guilford county and father of John A. Hodgkin, a leading citizen of Greensboro.

According to reports reaching here this morning Mr. Hodgkin was returning from a trip here, traveling alone, and there was no one near to lend assistance when the pony began bucking and shying. He was picked up a few minutes after his fall unconscious and died shortly after being carried to his home. Reports that the pony was frightened by an automobile were current here, but these were denied by the family this morning.

Arrangements have been completed for the formal opening of the handsome new Greensboro Y. M. C. A. Friday and Saturday, when the directors of the Y. M. C. A. with those of the Y. W. C. A. will act as hosts to all visitors. The association will begin an active campaign for membership immediately following the house warming. The splendid new building, erected at a cost of \$65,000 has just been turned over to the contractors and it measures up in every detail to the expectation of the directors and contributors of the building fund.

County superintendent of health Ross has made request of the county commissioners of the service of a trained nurse for the county home, declaring in his written request that such service is badly needed and strongly urging that Guilford take the lead in making such provision for the care of its indigent.

The usefulness of the automobile police patrol was displayed yesterday morning in an undisputed manner when it was employed in a hurry call to catch a prisoner who escaped from two of the city officers. The patrol was ready for the first real urgent need of such a wagon and in but a moment or two it had covered the distance between the flying prisoner and he was taken back to the calaboose. Unfortunately, however, the same prisoner, Lee Hunt, escaped from the calaboose, which is also new last night. Hunt is charged with a minor offense, but seems to detest the close communion Judge Eure is wont to have with his callers.

The county commissioners of Guilford county were served with warrants yesterday afternoon charged with maintaining a nuisance within the city limits. The county officials appear before Judge Eure in

municipal court tomorrow to answer to the charge. The action against the commissioners is the culmination of a war or some duration over the county hitching lot. The lot is located at the corner of West Gaston and North Greene streets and is alleged to be nuisance by people residing in that vicinity. The lot has been maintained by the commissioners for the benefit of the country people coming to Greensboro. A short time ago it looked as though opponents of the lot had won out. The commissioners ordered it sold and it was put up for sale but only \$2,600 was bid. Then the Retail Merchants association went before the commissioners and requested that the property be retained for the benefit of people from the country; that it was needed and the sale was declared off. Now the matter has gone into the courts and it is probable that there will be a hard legal fight before the matter is finally settled.

The secretary of the Greensboro chamber of commerce has been advised by G. S. Escott, secretary of the Southern Textile association, which has just closed a most successful convention in Atlanta that Greensboro has been selected as the 1912 meeting place for the association. The association will meet either June 30 or July 8. The Southern Textile association is composed of the superintendents and foremen of the cotton mills throughout the south and has a membership of more than 1,000.

Secretary Abraham Cook of the Southern Car Company of High Point says that this month his company will begin to deliver some of the large 50-foot combination baggage cars which are to be used on inter-urban roads. The cars made by the High Point company are very attractive and substantially made.

Nothing but "moonshine" cases were tried in federal court yesterday and this morning and up to now 12 have been wiped off the docket, though in only two cases were convictions secured. One of the most important of the lot was the indictment against I. Y. Wilson, a Caswell county farmer who was charged with illicit distilling and concealing. After four hours deliberation the jury late yesterday afternoon returned a verdict of guilty as to concealment and the prisoner was placed in the custody of the marshal to await sentence. Ed. Perdue, a wealthy farmer of Davidson county, was acquitted by the jury of blockading, being out on his case from noon yesterday until the hour for adjournment. Richard Greenwood was also acquitted of blockading, he having been arrested in Surry. It is expected that the case against the Lane and Nance brothers, of Wilkes county, will be called sometime this afternoon. They are alleged to have been the assailants of deputy marshal Robert Henry several months ago, when he, with a party of officers, was fired upon and several horses killed. Mr. Henry has practically recovered from his wounds and is here as a witness for the government.

A mass meeting has been called by the chamber of commerce for Friday night, when President McDonald, of the Randolph and Cumberland railroad and Judge S. P. McConnell, of Carthage, will make

addresses in the interest of the proposed road from Asheboro to High Point and Greensboro.

Reads Report to His Board

(Continued From Page One.)

partment is attempting to find the "no frost zone" in North Carolina. Corn clubs and other organizations are discussed thoroughly and all show great progress.

Speaking of duplication, Major Graham says the state should preserve its policy of instructing adult farmers even if it duplicates to some extent the work of the national department. The state cannot know when the national department will abandon its present policy, and for this reason it is essential that a progressive policy be maintained. He urges hearty co-operation, however. A conference on co-operation between Mr. Bradford Knapp, Mr. Schaub and Mr. Hudson has been arranged, the commissioner says. Committees from the college and department of agriculture have recommended co-operation on the part of both institutions in the matter of experimental and demonstration work.

Reorganization.
As to the reorganization scheme the commissioner says:

Remarkable Situation.

The resolution adopted as to the reorganization of the department seems to have been misunderstood; the committee on co-operation with the A. and M. College thought that the conclusion was to be reported to them from execution; some members of the board thought it was to be reported to the next session of the board for action—and this was the opinion of the commissioner, as he would not recognize any action which interfered with the duties conferred upon him by law. It is a remarkable occurrence, an attempt is made to place two employees of the department, neither of whom was a citizen of the state until induced to become so by lucrative positions—in authority over the commissioner, who is elected to his position by a majority of the voters of the state, and his duties defined by the law; legal interpretations of what are his duties was furnished by the attorney-general at the joint request of the commissioner and the board. Yet he is to be deprived of his rights. One of these men is employed by the commissioner and subject to be removed by him,—the other is employed by the board and his duties prescribed by law; they all directed to perform an act (for which there is no authority) over their fellow employees, and to prescribe to each of them his duties, and then if they cannot agree, there is to be another employe who is to decide the question.

Power of Employees.
Some of the members of the board do not seem to appreciate the difference of the dignity and authority of a member of the board, and one of its employees, and that there is no authority for the employes to perform duties which are given to the board. The board certainly cannot authorize others to do what they have no power to do, nor can they transfer to others duties consigned to them except as the law may provide.

Would Be Dismissed.
The resolution attempts to give the only employe of the department who is complaining of infringement in his division by others plenary powers to settle his affairs. He and his colleague are to judge of matters relating to other divisions of which they have neither the knowledge, oversight nor connection. I do not think a majority of the board will approve of any such illegal and discourteous measure, and do not deem it necessary to discuss it further. These imported regulators seem to have understood the resolution to be intended as a discourtesy to the head of the department, and never consulted him in any way as to his opinion as to what was to be done. There was no attempt to put anything into execution. Any employe attempting to interfere with the duties of the commissioner would have been promptly dismissed.

When the commissioner thought the board was trespassing on duties assigned to him, he proposed to have the matter settled by procuring from the attorney-general an opinion relating to it (as the attorney-general is authority on legal matters until decided by the courts); to this the board agreed, and appointed a member of the board, who accompanied the commissioner when he waited upon that official. This was done, and the attorney-general furnished the opinion in plain, unequivocal language. I think it is necessary at this juncture that the board should give an expression declaring its recognition of the legal status of the attorney-general and that his opinion will be recognized as law until overruled by competent tribunal, or by refusal to pass such resolution notify the attorney-general that they deem themselves as superior to him, stating whether in the capacity of a supreme court or as a legislature. The oath of the commissioner is to obey the laws of the state. If this is not done it will be necessary for the commissioner in his own defense and in respect to the law to carry the matter into court, or to

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compel any one attempting to act contrary to said opinion to do so. The commissioner has passed his three score years and ten and has as little alteration with his fellow men as any other man of his years. It is certainly disagreeable to him and he would be more than pleased to have it cease.

Confusion Caused.
"Confusion has been caused by having proposed changes in the work of the department brought to the notice of the board just before the adjournment, after having been caused by a few members; a vote was taken without opportunity for consideration and discussion. It would be better to have all such matters lie over from the session when proposed to the succeeding session before being voted upon. I think this course would prevent further friction and misunderstanding, and tend to harmony and good feeling."

Must Recognize Rights.
"I have no desire to usurp any authority given the board and hope that at least a majority of the board feel disposed to recognize the legal rights of the commissioner and that these resolutions which are useless as well as illegal will cease, and that the entire board will unite with the commissioner in advancing the good work which the department has done and is now doing, each giving the other respectful and courteous consideration."

Farmers' Institutes.
Major Graham gives in detail the work done by the several divisions of the department. There were 471 farmers' institutes held in 97 counties, with an attendance of 64,518. Not all of the applications for institutes were granted, he says, and declares that no other work has been as beneficial, the interest increasing each year. The commissioner says every railroad is promoting agriculture by giving the department valuable assistance, sometimes running special trains of their own and carrying lecturers from the department.

Oil Inspection.
The division of oil inspection received \$20,823.90 from June 1st to December 1st, and had a balance in June of \$2,136.83. The expenses for the entire year were \$49,176.82.

Not Separated.
Of the test farms the commissioner says:
There seems to be an idea, or rather a presumption, with some that this division of the work is separated or fenced off from the other work of the department, and is committed to the director and the test farm committee. This is an error; it is as much subject to the direction of the commissioner, and under the control of the board, as any other division.

An attempt was made to this end at the June meeting, 1910. The commissioner opposed it as an infringement upon his duties and contrary to law; the subject was submitted to the attorney-general who sustained the position of the commissioner.

A Change Urged.
The discontent of the members of the board with the condition of the test farms and the work connected with them was unanimous, and a change was urged by all. The commissioner said what was needed was a change in the directorship, that the director should be a practical farmer, skilled and experienced in his work. The state chemist was skilled in his profession, yet he did not have the practical experience required for the efficient management of the farms. The high salary paid him was on account of his ability as a chemist, but the department is not getting the benefit of his chemical knowledge, as he is put in charge of other work, for which a more competent man could be had at a much lower salary.

Value of Farms.
I think each member of the board has visited the test farms and has formed some opinion as to the work advisable to be done, and I hope

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