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PEN PICTURE OF THE COURT

JUDGE DEVIN AS HE APPEARS ON THE BENCH

Notes Picked Up Here and There About the Court Room—Solicitor Gattis is a Power in the Land.

Although Oxford is the home of Judge Devin, no judge of the Superior Court ever came to Granville and so quickly and completely won the respect, esteem and friendship of the citizens. As viewed from the bench, Judge Devin came among us comparatively a stranger, but within a day's time we all felt that the Supreme Court is none too high for him. If we had the ability it would be a pleasure for us to draw with words upon paper the character of Judge Devin as it impressed itself upon our heart. He is a man of many virtues of heart and mind, simple in taste, kind and gentle in manner, courteous, and considerate of others. He runs his court easily and smoothly, yet firmly and orderly. Duty to the law and the State, right in the sight of God, and justice to his fellowmen, are three characteristics which seem to guide and control him in the administration of law.

Judge Devin brings to the bench that dignity of character and learning that establishes the law on a higher plane. We must go back at least twenty years to find a man that will measure up to him, and it is passing strange that Judge Devin resembles very closely in facial expression and physique the most learned and equitable judge that has graced the bench of the State in the last quarter of a century. We point to Hon. John A. Gilmer, of Guilford, whose portrait adorns the walls of the State Library. We shall never be quite satisfied until the noble son of Granville is known as "Justice Devin." As compared with some of the fanatics on the bench, the one word "judge" is not strong enough in this day and time to separate the real from the false.

It is evident to any right thinking person that Judge Devin means to be fair and just. There are times when he must explain a point of law, and we have not seen it happen but that we were impressed with his good sense. He leaves no room for the jury to grope in the dark. If our cause were just we had rather risk Judge Devin than any man on the bench, but justice is not what some people want. He is merciful where mercy is due, yet at the same time the old offenders who are past the reformatory age must look out, or they will find themselves breaking rock for the benefit of the county roads. We wish we had more Judges of like nature and the law would be more highly regarded by the law breakers.

We may be excused for telling one or two things that took place in court this week that caused us all to sit up and take notice. It is a well-known fact that Judge Devin is not entirely satisfied until he knows that none but intelligent, high toned men compose the jury, and when the name of a good man is called for jury duty it never fails to bring a smile. In making up the grand jury Monday morning the name of Mr. John Webb was called. Mr. Webb was none too quick to take his seat until Judge Devin pointed the way. General Royster, with smiles playing about his face, stated to the court that Mr. Webb was a tobacco buyer and that he wishes to be relieved from jury duty. Although Judge Devin is the guest of his sister, Mrs. John Webb, we noticed that he held Mr. John Webb to a strict accountability of what took place in the grand jury room.

It will be remembered that Monday morning was very cold. An old fellow from up the county came in and took his seat near the stove. It was not very long until the corn liquor under his shirt began to boil. None of the court officials, it would seem, noticed the condition of the old fellow and when his name was called to take his seat in the jury box preparatory to try causes at bar, he murmured something to himself and took his seat and leaning over addressed the Court: "I can hear everything that is going on but I can't understand." Judge Devin ordered the Sheriff to take charge of the old fellow and place him where no harm would overtake him until he was in his rightful mind.

The more we see of Hon. S. M. Gattis, the very able solicitor, the more we are thoroughly convinced that he is one of the ablest lawyers in the state. His mind covers the entire judicial district like a blanket. He speaks without notes and if there are twenty witnesses in the case he calls their names as readily as if he had known them all his life. Here is a sentence that caps the climax: "I tell you, fellows," said the Solicitor, "that when Sheriff Hobgood, Sam

SPRING CONCERT NOTED SOPORANO

"BRIDAL CHORUS FROM THE ROSEMAIDS."

The Oxford Choral Club Will Give Its Second Concert at the Orpheum Theatre Next Thursday Night—Noted Singer Coming.

Last June the Oxford Choral Club presented its first program at the Orpheum. They sang Braodbury's Oratorio "Queen Esther," and it was universally declared to be the finest choral work ever heard in our city. Announcement is now made that the Club will give its second concert at the Orpheum next Thursday night at 8:30, February 24th.

Perhaps the Club feels justly that Oxford as a whole has not supported its efforts properly. A packed house should greet our Club when the curtain rises next Thursday evening. They will present eight beautiful choruses, ending with the great "Bridal Chorus from the Rosemaids" and between the numbers as the star for the evening, Miss Adriana Kuyk of Richmond will sing. Miss Kuyk is one of Richmond's most popular sopranos, with a voice of wide range and beauty. She always pleases and is very gracious in her responses, singing with rare enthusiasm and personality. The Club is a little in debt at present and hopes that a liberal response on the part of Oxford's citizens will put them on a sound financial footing.

Tickets will be sold as follows: lower floor, 50c; gallery, 35c.

JEWELER AND OPTOMETRIST

Mr. Knight and Family of Mt. Airy, Locate in Oxford.

Mr. J. W. Knight, jeweler and optometrist, of Mt. Airy, has located in Oxford. He has leased a room on Hillsboro street, near the Carolina Power and Light Company's office, where he will carry a line of jewelry and do repair work. Mr. Knight has an interesting family and they will be here as soon as he can make arrangements for their reception. All good people extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Knight and his family.

OF GREAT VALUE

Well Established Claims to the Title of Town Builders

The Oxford Building and Loan Association has well established its claim to the title of town builder. Its excellent growth continues one of the most significant and hopeful indications in connection with the industrial strides. We invite attention to the financial statement of the Association elsewhere in this paper.

In discussing the influence of building and loan associations, the Newark, N. J., Call has the following comment:

"The building and loan association has assuredly been the most effective agent that this city and county have known in promoting frugality and teaching the desirability of saving a little each week to get something worth while afterward. It has taught self-control and self-sacrifice, and it has had a tremendous influence in making citizens careful of their rights and persistent in their demand for sound government. Its effect upon all the body politic has been inspiring."

Mrs. Easton Improves

The many friends of Mrs. Cam Easton, who is at St. Luke's Hospital Richmond, will be glad to learn that she is improving rapidly. Mr. Easton spoke very encouragingly of her condition and stated that it was only a matter of a few days until she would be at home.

Wheeler, Hutchins and Babe Hobgood, the policeman, get after you there is something doing in court."

Of course all witnesses are sworn to tell the truth and nothing but the truth before they take the stand. It is doubtful that any man in the State understands human nature better than Col. Gattis. He eyes the witness very closely and starts off by calling him by his given name, and when he learns that the witness is unfair to the State he turns on the galvanic battery and burns worse than a Granville county mule, and he doesn't relent until he sees a tear in the witness' eye, and then, as if regretting the terrible grueling, he mops his brow and asks the witness in a subdued tone of voice if he would be willing to swear to some one of the statements he made during the examination. Unless he be a very truthful witness, Col. Gattis is sure to get him coming and going.

Col. Sam Gattis is doing a noble work for the State. There are a lot of people in the district that would like to see him in Congress and he would make a fine representative. There is no telling what will happen some of these days if he takes off his coat and gets in the field. His friends are many.

THE GRAND JURY'S REPORT

THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY IN FINE SHAPE

The Criminal Docket Dwindles in the Hands of the Very Able Judge and Solicitor.

As we go to press Superior Court is still in session, the criminal docket being uncompleted. No case of great importance has engaged the attention of the court. Quite a number of liquor cases have been tried.

Jacob Tanner, whose case has been continued from time to time, was acquitted at this term. He was accused of having liquor for the purpose of sale but as the quantity he had was small and he had previously borne a good reputation the jury accepted his view of the matter. Mr. Lassiter and Mr. Hicks defended him.

Another acquittal was that of the white man Pendergrass of Durham who was on the car of P. D. Farrington seized last summer. It developed that Farrington at the time of the arrest claimed the liquor as belonging to him and that Pendergrass had nothing to do with it. Mr. Victor S. Bryant, of Durham and Mr. Lassiter appeared for the defendant.

Henry Clark was convicted of larceny of some money from an old negro at the Owen Warehouse. Walter Black, his accomplice, pleaded guilty. Mr. Hicks represented Clark and Mr. Lassiter appeared for Black.

Baldy Kearsey was before the Court charged with the possession of liquor for the purpose of sale. The evidence tended to show that Baldy had a quantity of the ardent at the old Kearsey homestead near Bell Town when the place was searched by the officers. The jury convicted him. Mr. Lassiter and Mr. Hicks defended him.

John Mangum, a young negro of the town, was convicted of selling whiskey to Will Covington. York Allen was also accused of selling to the same witness but was acquitted.

James Marble was before the court for having liquor for the purpose of sale. This is the case where the officer, Mr. Grover Hobgood, in making the arrest found it difficult to stop the bug in which defendant was on account of defendant's whipping the mule and striking Mr. Hobgood over the face and neck with his whip, as a consequence the officer shot the defendant in this case, Messrs. Graham & Son, T. Lanier and B. K. Lassiter, appearing for him. The jury was unable to reach a verdict, standing evenly divided and mistrial was ordered. Gen. Royster assisted the Solicitor in the prosecution.

Calvin Lyon, an old offender from Creedmoor, was before the court charged with having liquor for the purpose of sale. He found it necessary to plead guilty and was given fifteen months on the roads. Mr. Hester and Graham & Son appeared for him.

Will Teasley, another Creedmoor negro, faced the same charge and although he went to the jury a verdict of guilty was brought in against him. Mr. Hester represented him.

As we go to press the case against Sam Callahan, Hammett Callahan, Jethro Wilkerson and Younger Sizemore charged with disturbing a school entertainment at Mountain Creek School is before the court and is being hotly contested. Gen. Royster and Mr. Brummitt are assisting in the prosecution, while Graham & Son, Hicks & Stem are defending.

The only sentence so far imposed by Judge Devin in the liquor cases is that upon Cal Lyon. From the term given him it may be gathered that road sentences face those who have been convicted.

Grand Jury's Report

The Grand Jury rendered the following report:

To his Honor, Judge W. A. Devin, Judge Presiding:

We, the Grand Jury of the February term of Granville County Superior court, are pleased to advise that we have reported all bills presented to us, except three which witnesses could not be found. We wish to thank his Honor Judge W. A. Devin and the Honorable Solicitor, S. M. Gattis, for the kindly assistance rendered us.

We, through a committee, have examined the Court House and all the offices thereof, and we find the books and papers in both the clerks and the register of Deed's office properly and neatly kept and the Sheriff's and Grand Jury Room also neatly kept.

Through a committee we have examined the jail and found it in a good condition and sanitary.

The County Home was examined through a committee and the same was found to be well kept by the Superintendent Sam Daniel and his excellent wife. There are thirty one inmates, 11 white and 20 colored, 3 white men, 8 white women, 8 colored men, and 12 colored women, 3 mules, 1 horse, 2 milch cows, 1 heifer, 17

THE IMPETUS TO BUSINESS

THINGS ARE MOVING UP WONDERFULLY IN OXFORD

Watch the Scroll of Progress Unroll Between Now and January 1, 1917—The Spirit is Here Good and Strong.

There is a real spirit of working for Oxford abroad among the people of our fair little city. The sturdy business men and the spirited young men have the spirit and when everybody gets it it can be claimed that progressiveness and development is the animating sense for our people. Everybody must be obsessed of it in order that it may be a moving spirit.

We must not forget that the women of Oxford have the spirit, for we have been equally impressed with the manifest fact that they are very earnest and effective factors in the present day progressiveness and progress of Oxford. They are looking after lots of good work that the men are too prone to leave to them, and yet while they are busy with their church, social, literary and civic societies, they are ever ready to lend a helping hand to the men of Oxford. They are planning to make a bigger success this year, and moreover they are ready to mobilize on about all the lines of progress that the men may undertake. Our live women are an effective promoter, and the Public Ledger is duly appreciative of their good works. When the streets have been paved there will be a park extending along either side and in the middle to some of the streets. The good ladies have it in their minds to make Oxford the prettiest town in the whole South.

Things are moving up in Oxford and all we've got to do is to make it our regular gait. We will soon begin to see what Oxford is doing for herself in 1916. Watch the scroll of progress unroll between now and January 1, 1917. Get the work-for-Oxford spirit good and strong.

The industrial motive behind certain humane work is so apparent that it is scarcely necessary to point it out.

CONCERT MONDAY NIGHT

Local Talent Will Assist Miss Katherine Johnson.

On Monday evening, at 8 o'clock sharp there will be a concert in the Graded School Auditorium given by Miss Katherine Johnson, of Meredith College, Raleigh. The Music Department of the Civic Club is especially fortunate in securing this popular young singer and she will be heard with great pleasure. Her accompaniments will be played by Miss Mary Webb. Miss Johnson will be assisted by Miss Hankins, of Oxford College, who has already made a reputation for herself here, by her artistic playing. The public is cordially invited to attend and there will be no charge for admission.

MERCHANTS GO NORTH

Oxford Merchants Will Lay in Good Stocks

In our rounds among the merchants of Oxford we learn that their stocks are low, and those who have not gone North to lay in new goods will do so within the next few days. Mr. Oscar Breedlove, buyer for the Perkins-Green Company, will leave for the northern markets this Friday. Mr. Josh King has scruples about traveling on Sunday and has, therefore, decided to wait until Monday, and it is stated that Major Landis will slip out some time between Saturday noon and Monday morning.

Well Dressed Men

If the Schloss Bros. Co., of Baltimore or the Globe Tailoring Company, of Cincinnati, cannot make a man out of you, there is nothing to build upon. These well known Tailors will be in Oxford, at the Long Company, Feb. 23-26. Here is a chance for young men and old men to get on a dike at small cost.

Miss Hixie White Entertains

Thursday afternoon Miss Hixie White entertained the young ladies of the Thursday Club. The day being near Washington's Birthday the place cards were hand painted hatchets. After playing Rook the hostess served a salad course consisting of cherry salad, tomato aspic, sandwiches in the shape of hatchets, crackers and coffee. In the salad waved an American flag.

head of hogs, 30 chickens, 350 lbs. of lard, 75 bushels of peas, 60 bbls. corn, 10 bbls. flour, 1500 lbs. meat, plenty of dry feed.

We through a committee have examined the road camp and found it in a fairly good condition.

There are 14 convicts, 2 hired men, 12 mules, 2 road machines and all other tools in good condition.

JOHN D. WILLIAMS, Forman.

WILL HURT THE GROWERS

TOBACCO RESTRICTED FROM ENTERING ENGLISH PORTS

Largest Buyers of American Tobacco Will Continue to Buy the Weed Feeling It is Necessary to Sustain the American Market.

A prominent American diplomat who has been abroad studying trade conditions returned last week and stated as a fact that England was considering the importance of cutting out everything but munitions and the necessities of life. Sure enough, England has restricted tobacco. Commenting on the situation, a London correspondent of the Associated Press says:

Tobacco unlike most commodities improves with holding and wholesalers and manufacturers can await with equanimity the resumption of regular commerce, but the growers who expect their money every year for their crops, may suffer by a slump in prices, it is felt.

The annual domestic consumption here is about \$100,000,000 pounds while the amount exported in manufactured form is 38,000,000 pounds, so that the 279,000,000 pounds in the British warehouses assure a two year supply for the United Kingdom Ninety per cent, of this came from the United States, this amount making Great Britain America's best individual customer.

The consumption of tobacco in Great Britain has increased greatly during the past few years and importers have been bringing in huge amounts and until recently storage space has been at a premium. The government is well aware of this condition, so despite the powerful financial interests involved in the trade it had little difficulty in making tobacco one of the first victims of the policy of restricting the importation of luxuries.

The bulky nature of tobacco made it a natural object of restriction, and it is hardly likely to profit much by the license loophole, as all the big tobacco ports are also wheat shipping places, and wheat will always be favored.

"The Imperial Tobacco company, the largest buyer of American tobacco, is not expected to cease buying because of the prohibition, as it is understood it feels it necessary to sustain the American market, and therefore will probably store its purchases in the United States. This plan, however, may be upset, as there is some probability that the government will soon forbid the transfer of money to pay for commodities on the prohibited list."

The Public Ledger feels it a duty to warn the farmers against a large production of tobacco. A limited supply will be taken at good prices, but a large output means ruin.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

A Method By Which Fires Can be Located.

Whenever the fire bell in the tower of the old market house rings, everybody in town either rushes to the phone and calls up "central" or go to the door and scan the horizon with a view of locating the fire.

There is an arrangement by which the public can locate the fire as soon as the bell taps. It is an electrical device so arranged as to strike and pause at intervals, as for instance 1-1-2-2 would mean the east side of Main street on the square occupied by the Court House. There are several systems of alarm, but our personal knowledge extends to the Gamewell Fire Alarm Company, which is very accurate and comparatively cheap.

As the wires are generally put under the ground, it would be well for the Town Commissioners to look into the matter before the paving is laid and give us at least ten boxes at as many important points.

POST OFFICE BILL UP

Congressman Spill Forth Oratory on Rural Free Delivery Feature and Pay to the Railroads

The House occupied itself Friday with consideration of the annual post office appropriation bill. Slow progress is being made because of the flood of political oratory on the measure, and the indications are that it will not be disposed of before next week. The fight on the bill centers on the rural free delivery provisions and on new legislation proposing to change the system of railway compensation to a space basis, and to provide for government bonding of Department officers and mail contractors.

Basket Ball

The Oxford High School Basketball team, of which Robert Kinton is captain, is making an enviable reputation. In two games with Kittrell they broke even. They had an easy walkover with Stem and they held Middleburg down. The Oxford team will play Stem at Stem next week.