

PUBLIC LEDGER

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY — TOWN AND COUNTY OFFER BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITIES

ALL HOME PRINT

VOLUME XXXII OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1917. NUMBER 93

HERBERT PERRY SENTENCED TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

A Detailed Account of the Heinous Crime.

The whole of the first week of court was occupied in the trial of criminal cases. The last one before the court was that against the negro Herbert Perry charged with criminal assault upon little Miss Katie May. The trial occupied three days of the court and resulted in the conviction of the prisoner.

The Public Ledger has not heretofore attempted to give any account of this trial or of the offense at the time it occurred, but it deems it not inappropriate to give a resume of the evidence adduced at the trial. The young girl lives with her father and step mother out near Dickerson on the plantation of Mr. Arthur A. Currin. She was fourteen years old last June. As has heretofore been stated Judge Connor excluded everybody from the court room while she was giving her testimony except the officers of the court, but we understand that she testified that in the early part of the night of Thursday, August 16, the prisoner approached her while she was on the porch of her home, held a pistol at her head and threatened her with death if she resisted; that after he had accomplished his purpose he told her that if she revealed what had taken place he would kill her and every member of her family and burn up their home; that under the influence of this fear she did not tell her parents and that at the same time the following night the negro came again to her home, placed a ladder against the house and attempted to climb into her room, but was frightened away by the approach of her father and a neighbor who were coming from the barn; that on the following Sunday in company with the other members of the family she was visiting at the home of a kinsman, Mr. Sam Pleasants, and at that time asked this cousin to get her father to let her stay with them as she was afraid to go home; that in consequence of this conversation she told of the attempt on Friday night and her father procured a warrant for the negro and he was arrested on Sunday night.

The prisoner denied everything that the young girl said. He attempted to establish an alibi, but we understand that sufficient time elapsed on the night in question unaccounted for by him for the occurrence by the young girl. For the prisoner a letter was introduced which was delivered at the Sheriff's office addressed to him on the Wednesday following his arrest. The letter purported to have been written and signed by the little girl and set out that her accusation against him was false; that it was Dick Gordon who was on the porch on the Friday night and that her parents were forcing her to make accusation. The young girl denied having written this letter and in corroboration of this statement of here it was shown that on Tuesday, the day on which the letter must have been mailed, if mailed by her, she was in the company of her step-mother all day except at one period when she went to the potato patch and the mailbox in company with Mrs. Arthur Currin; that at this time she mailed one letter addressed to Sam Pleasants and according to her statement and that of Mrs. Currin this was the only letter she mailed. The letter to Sam Pleasants was received by him and introduced in evidence. It was further shown by Mrs. Currin that on the Monday following the arrest the wife of the prisoner asked her for some writing paper and she gave her several sheets from a tablet which corresponded in size, shape

(Continued On Page Four)

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOY ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

Iver Critcher, of Salem Township, Falls Through Elevator Shaft. Mr. Iver Critcher, a promising young man, 23 years old, fell through an elevator shaft at Hope-well last Saturday and died a few hours later.

Mr. J. Robt. Wood, local undertaker, met the remains at Henderson Monday evening and conveyed them to the parental home in Salem Township. The burial will take place at Salem Church this Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

GOOD LOAD OF TOBACCO

Mr. C. G. Daniel is a Blue Ribbon Tobacco Grower.

Mr. C. G. Daniel—every body in Granville knows the good man—sold a load of tobacco at the Minor Warehouse Monday that brought him \$1,010.91. The load did not seem to be more than a mere armful, but the check told the tale. See the honor roll in the Minor Warehouse announcement on the fourth page of this paper.

INSTITUTION OF COUNTY IN GOOD CONDITION.

Grand Jury Recommends a Road Commission Form of Government.

Oxford, N. C., Nov. 13, 1917. To His Honor Judge George W. Connor, Judge Presiding:

We the Grand Jury of November term, 1917, Granville County Superior Court, beg to report as follows: We have passed upon all bills presented for our consideration with the exception of one, and in this case it was a lack of witness.

We have visited the several offices of the Court House and found them satisfactorily conducted.

We visited the Jail and found it equipped with new iron beds and comfortable cotton pads. The prisoners spoke kindly of Mr. Walters as their keeper.

Of the thirty four magistrates in the County, only nine have complied with the law in making their reports to the Clerk of the Court. The Clerk of the Court has received no funds for minors since last report.

There is no Convict force in the county; therefore no report of the same.

We visited the Home of the Aged and Infirm through a committee of five as follows:

Number of inmates 32; Number white women 7; white men 4; Number colored women 11; Number colored men 10; One horse, Three mules, Three milch cows, Three calves, Twenty-three hogs, 75 pounds home made lard, a plenty potatoes, turnips and peas. Three bushels navy beans; three barrels old corn, three barrels molasses. The home is kept in good condition and the inmates well cared for.

We desire as a body to voice our sentiment relative to police protection, especially in the rural districts, at a time when so many of our men are serving our country.

We feel that the next session of the General Assembly, should enact a law by which, a safeguard can be thrown around our homes, that at present is not in existence. Sad as it may sound, no man can feel safe in leaving his home to go forth and discharge the duties that at some time are forced to call him away.

We do hereby earnestly request that our next representatives have enacted such laws that will give us the relief desired.

Also we feel that the present system of working our roads is a poor one. We have no recommendations to make, but suggest that a mass meeting of the Citizens of the county be held, with our representatives present, and discuss a road Commission form of Government or any other method by which we may secure better roads for the money spent.

J. T. AVERETT, Foreman.

BRITISH WIN TERRITORY EQUAL TO FIVE STATES

The British since July 1, 1916, have conquered or reconquered 128,000 square miles. This area is almost equal to that of the States of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and West Virginia combined.

Since the beginning of the war the British have captured in all the war theatres 166,000 prisoners. The figure is equal to that of the combined populations of Granville, Person, Durham, Wake, Vance, and Orange counties.

CITIZENS CONTRIBUTE LIBERALLY TO GOOD CAUSE.

Mass Meeting At Court House Monday Night Was a Success.

Secretary Winchell, of Camp Greene, Charlotte, was the principal speaker at the mass meeting at the court house Monday night for the war work of the Y. M. C. A. Mr. F. W. Hancock, Jr., chairman of the work in Granville, at the conclusion of Mr. Winchell's remarks called upon a number of prominent citizens for short and pointed speeches.

The general sentiment here and throughout the entire country is that the war work of the Y. M. C. A. is of first importance, as it is the only means through which the morals of the soldiers can be reached. Granville's allotment in the national campaign to raise thirty-five million dollars is \$3,000. Of this amount \$877.00 was subscribed at the mass meeting Monday night. The Public Ledger will carry a list of the subscriptions in our next issue.

Chairman Hancock and Secretary A. W. Graham, Jr., have arranged committees to try and raise Granville's allotment within the next few days. It is a most worthy cause and the good people in the country are expected to do their duty.

Fine Horses and Mules

Nelson & Watkins have just received another car load of good horses and mules. See their announcement elsewhere in this paper.

SOCIALISTS FORM CABINET AS KERENSKY IS FLEEING FROM WRATH OF SOLDIERS

In Sailor's Garb Kerensky Fleeing—Little Hope Now That He Will Be Able to Regain Control of Government—Is Going to Moscow.

(Washington Special)

With unconfirmed reports reaching Washington that Kerensky is in flight and that his Moscow garrison is besieged in the ancient Kremlin the State Department received a cablegram from Ambassador Francis at Petrograd saying the socialists have taken possession of the government.

They have formed a compromise ministry embracing the various factions of the revolutionists. They have set up a tentative sort of government with a large representation of the Bolsheviks.

Kerensky in Flight.

Disguised as a sailor Kerensky vanished from the midst of a mutinous Cossack army while they were picking a guard to take him in chains to Petrograd and deliver him to the Bolsheviks who clamor for his head.

His last work before he disappeared as if spirited away was a hint at suicide.

The whole vast realm—workers, peasants, Cossacks, and all—has turned overnight again the man whom but a brief month ago they idolized as their savior. He is being hunted by the wrath and vengeance of a people that feels itself outraged by him because he would not use the knout.

If he is caught the death of a Robespierre awaits him whose sole crime was too deep a love for his countrymen, a love that knows no force.

Forming Coalitions.

Battles, armistices, conciliations, regroupings of forces are following one another in swift succession both in Moscow and in and around Petrograd. New "armies" and would be governments are springing up from nowhere every hour. Provinces are seceding, setting up autonomies and forming coalitions between morning and night.

In all this chaos Kerensky, fleeing across the steppes is like a father repudiated and expelled by his children.

An Estimate of Russia

Russia, as a factor in the war against Germany, has been lost to the Western Allies and America, except insofar as, in the words of Lloyd George, "a revolutionary Russia can never be anything but a menace to Hohensollernism."

Germany will very likely have been defeated before the new Russia takes its place among the nations of the world. Territorially, governmental, in every respect, it will resemble the old empire of 1914 very little. An exact description of this future State is now impossible. But it will not cover an area of 8,500,000 square miles.

The empire was constructed principally by the method of military conquest. The attempt of the Czars to "russify" all its diverse racial groups was a failure. Only one-half of the population can be counted as of Russian blood. Nothing but a powerful, autocratic government, in the hands of such a conquerer and empire-builder as Peter the Great, could keep the farflung boundaries intact, and such a government is of the days gone by for Russia.

It is reported, although upon highly doubtful authority, that the deposed czar has been proclaimed Emperor of Siberia. In any case, the portion of the old Russia is under way. Finland, Swedish in culture and Protestant in religion, has declared its independence. The future of Russia Poland and the Ukraine is not yet apparent. Nicholas Romanoff, despite the magic of his name of "Little White Father," will never be able, even should he lift the banner of a holy war, to restore Russia to her former self. He is too weak to master the forces of democracy and revolution now at work.

Russia is lost to the Allies, but not to herself. Out of turmoil and disaster will finally emerge the new nation. It may take years and it may take generations. We have lost whatever Russia there was for the rest of the war, but we have not lost interest in the mighty, wonderful struggle going on within her broken borders. Bloodshed and burning, race riots and political overtures, are yet to be, but in the end—Russia.

Dorsey R. Wrenn, U. S. N.

A letter from Dorsey R. Wrenn, of the battleship Michigan, states that he is enjoying the service. His ship has passed through the war zone two or three times lately. Dorsey is the fine son of Mr. J. W. Wrenn, Oxford Route 3.

LIST OF MEN SELECTED FOR MILITARY SERVICE.

The Local Board Posted the Names November 16th.

This list, from the date of its posting at the office of the Granville County Exemption Board constitutes notice to those whose names are listed hereon, that they have been selected for military service, and charges them with an obligation to watch the bulletin board of the Local Board and to hold themselves in readiness to report for military duty at the office of the Local Board at a date to be specified in a later notice to be posted at that office.

- Downey Lucins, colored.
- Walter Wilkerson, colored.
- Jesse Royster, colored.
- Furman L. Wheelers, white.
- Jno. H. Newton, white.
- Frank T. Cozart, white.
- Luther P. Stroud, white.
- Geo. Lonnie Wright, white.
- John Barnes, colored.
- Joe H. Lindsay, colored.
- Joseph E. Mitchell, colored.
- Walter Wilkinson, white.
- James Thorpe, colored.
- Gladys L. Holmar, colored.
- Cornelius Royster, colored.
- Nelson Yancey, colored.
- Thos. Edward Moss, white.

HEAVY MAIL AND EXPRESS.

There is a Congestion Everywhere in the Mail, Express and Freight Business.

The Oxford office of the Southern Express Company is now enjoying the biggest business in its history. Mr. C. B. Strickland, the local agent—young in years but old in the business—says he has never seen anything to equal it. No one in the South ever expected to see solid express trains, but that is exactly what they are doing over on the main lines—running solid trains to take care of the express shippers.

These trains take precedence over mail trains.

There is a congestion in the express, in the mail and the freight business all over the country. Of course it is understood that in times of stress like these no one should be alarmed if their mail, express packages or heavy freight does not reach them on the minute. The freight and express is packed and jammed at every terminal, and it will be much worse from now until after the holidays. Extra men are needed to handle the business, but none can be had, it seems.

It is our conviction that the mails are as important as express and that the public has a right to a better mail service than it is now getting. The delay on the receipt of mail at the Oxford Postoffice is due to failure of mail trains to make schedules.

FARMERS TO JOIN LABOR TO WIN WAR.

Pledge of Their Co-operation to Federation at Buffalo.

A pledge from the farmers to join hands with union labor to help win the war was given last week at the Buffalo session of the American Federation of Labor by A. C. Townley, president of the Farmers Non-Partisan League, and L. V. Strayer, second vice-president of the Farmers National Congress.

"The farmers realize," Mr. Strayer said, "the great responsibility that rests upon them in this great world crisis."

Thanksgiving Services

Dr. Harte, pastor of the Oxford Baptist Church, announced from the pulpit Sunday that there will be Thanksgiving services in his church on the morning of Thanksgiving Day. An interesting program will be arranged.

One of the Best.

W. B. Hobgood and E. Morris sold one load of tobacco at the Johnson Warehouse Monday for \$842.67. The load weighed 2,100 lbs. This lot represented only about one-sixth of Mr. Hobgood's crop of tobacco, and best of all he is a man that lives at home and does his bit to feed the Sammys.

Thanksgiving Sale.

Notice some of the big bargains mentioned in Victor Kaplon's adv. on the third page of this paper. Their Thanksgiving sale is now going on.

Twenty-Five Men Go to Camp

Twenty-five drafted men left Oxford at seven o'clock this Tuesday morning for Camp Jackson. The local Exemption Board elected Private A. H. Veasey, of Lyon, commandant of the squad.

Granville's Colored Soldiers

The Public Ledger is advised from Washington that the colored soldiers in this section of the State will be mobilized at a northern camp within the next ten days or two weeks.

TURKEYS ROOST TOO HIGH FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

Farmers Ask Thirty Cents a Pound For Thanksgiving Bird.

Turkeys during the last week bounded skyward on the Oxford market and unless they come down within the reach of the average citizen there will be very few families in this section able to procure the festive fowl for Thanksgiving dinner.

Two weeks ago several farmers visited the homes of the people in Oxford and took orders for turkeys to be delivered two weeks or ten days before Thanksgiving. Verbal contracts were entered into with that simple faith that has dominated the good people of this section for many years—the farmers to deliver the bird for twenty-five cents the pound and the head of the family agreeing to take it at that figure.

It is not often that a farmer in this section will violate his word of honor, but in this instance many of them have notified the housewives that turkey meat is now worth thirty cents on the wing, and hard to get at that figure. The farmers argue that everything they buy is advancing by leaps and bounds, and that everything they sell must also advance.

Highest Market in State.

Turkeys were quoted in Richmond last week at 25c the pound; Raleigh 20c; Wilmington, 18 @ 20c, and Charlotte, Winston, Asheville and Fayetteville at 20 @ 23c. The Granville county farmers are asking 30 cents the pound for the big bird.

On a High Perch.

It is interesting to note just how the turkey got on such a high financial perch in the good old county of Granville. The fact that three of four former Granvillians now living up north must get their Thanksgiving turkey from the old home county, is responsible for the phenomenal rise. They wrote to friends in Granville and told them to purchase the handsomest turkeys that could be found regardless of price. The whole county was scoured from end to end for a dozen of the finest fowls that could be had. These select specimens brought 30 @ 35c the pound, and the news spread over the county like wild-fire that the price on the Oxford market was 30c on the wing. The farmers are asking 30c, and the offerings at that figure are very scarce.

Turkeyless Thanksgiving.

Only about one man in twenty is able to eat turkey at 30c the pound. They may not tell you so in so many words, but when you hear them compare the turkey with jack rabbits and say that their meat is "too dry anyhow," you may know that it is the thirty cents that is bothering them.

TO SELECT THE MOST FEASIBLE ROUTE.

The Pathfinders Will Report in Sixty Days.

A letter from Mr. J. A. Rountree, secretary of the Bankhead Highway Association, states that the Pathfinders tour, which passed through Oxford three weeks ago, was a great success from start to finish.

Secretary Rountree says: "Messrs La Groce, Batchelder, and Eldridge took observations, notes, data and maps of the two routes—the Eastern and Piedmont Routes. They will study the same and within the next sixty days or more will make a report recommending the most feasible route, and will report to President Plowman, who will call a meeting of the Board of Directors to pass upon the same."

DELIGHTFUL EVENING

Select Singers Will Give Concert.

Saturday. The Oxford Orphanage Singing Class will give its concert here on Saturday night, November 24. The local Masonic Lodge has appointed a special committee to prepare for this concert. The committee is composed of D. G. Brummitt, chairman; Pete Bullock, Dr. N. C. Daniel, H. F. Holeman, Gen. B. S. Royster, A. H. Powell, and E. H. Brooks. This committee is anxious to show what Oxford can do for its Orphanage. It wants a full house at the concert. It also wants every resident of the community to purchase one or more tickets whether they can attend the concert or not. Tickets may be had of any of these gentlemen in any quantities desired. Further announcement will be made in our next issue.

Granville Real Estate.

Granville real estate is increasing in value all the time and it will never again be as reasonable as it is today. Mr. A. H. Powell, president Granville Real Estate and Trust Co., has a number of valuable properties listed which he will gladly show you. See announcement elsewhere in this paper.