

# OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER

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## NEWS IN SHORT FORM SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

Congress closed down Saturday night until January 5 for its holiday vacation.

President Wilson enjoyed Washington's first real snow storm of the year Saturday spending an hour on the south porch of the White House wrapped in a fur coat.

Dr. H. Q. Elander, late president of the North Carolina Farmers' Union, has been made president of and editor of the Co-Operate, a publication devoted to the interests of the Union.

President Wilson still sticks to it that the Republican leaders of the Senate shall continue to bear the undivided responsibility for the fate of the treaty and the present condition of the world in consequence of that fate.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1919, shows that North Carolina continues to lead the Union in the number of illicit distilleries seized, the total for North Carolina being 814.

The biggest single contract yet awarded by the North Carolina Highway Commission was let when bids were opened for the construction of the Lenoir county link of the Central highway, twenty-one miles in length, at a total cost of \$705,000.

Captain Sir John Alcock, the first aviator to make a non-stop airplane flight across the Atlantic, died at Rouen, France, Saturday as a result of injuries he received when his plane crashed near Cottevrad, Department of Seine-in-Feriere, Normandy.

Permanent headquarters will be established in New York in the interest of the candidacy of Champ Clark, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the Democratic nomination for President. It is said that similar committees will be established throughout the country.

The formal call for the national Republican convention, to be held in Chicago, June 8, 1920, provides that all delegates and alternates must be chosen "not earlier than 30 days after the date of this call and not later than 30 days before the meeting of such Republican national convention unless otherwise provided by the laws of the State in which the election occurs."

State Director C. H. Mebane, of the Home Law Enforcement and World Prohibition movement, says that sugar users should line up behind Col. Vanderford and his organization, in breaking up illicit liquor traffic. One agent from Atlanta told him that around Atlanta, moonshiners were getting a plentiful supply of sugar at 75 cents a pound, 500 pounds of blockaded liquor sugar from one plant having been sold at auction last week.

## THE NEW HARDWARE STORE

The new Enterprise of C. D. Ray & Son is Open For Business. The dream of C. D. Ray & Son has been realized. Before the advent of the world war they were quietly figuring and planning to embark in the hardware business, but the war blocked the progress of many proposed enterprises, including the building of homes, factories and railroads.

C. D. Ray & Son have catered to the building trade for many years, and the new hardware store is practically an enlargement of their business, which also includes a general line of hardware, ranging from a pen knife to the materials to build an army tank car. They carry everything in the hardware line except a still, such as the moonshiners use.

The new store is situated on College street, adjoining the Johnson warehouse on the north side. The shelving and counters are neatly arranged and the display of goods is inviting and tempting. The stock is full and complete, but the large part of it is on the second floor. The goods from the factory are brought to the store and hoisted on the elevator to the second floor, where they are unpacked and stored to replenish the stock or samples on the lower floor.

A good warm fire and a hearty welcome awaits you at the new hardware store. While Mr. Clark, an experienced hardware man, will be constantly at the store, Messrs. C. D. Ray & Son will at all times be in close touch with their two places of business.

## COTTON GINNED TO DEC. 15, IS 9,402,520

Figures Given By Census Bureau Show Table of 755,515 Bales For North Carolina.

Cotton ginned prior to December 13, the Census Bureau announced last week, amounted to 9,402,520 running bales, including 103,926 round bales, 27,906 bales of American Egyptian and 6,429 bales of Sea Island.

Ginnings by States included: North Carolina, 755,515; South Carolina, 1,369,414; Virginia, 19,653.

TURN COKE—IT'S GOOD FOR stoves or grates.—C. D. RAY & Son.

## WILL BLACKWELL WAS TERROR TO WAREHOUSEMEN

Placed Stolen Tobacco on Three Warehouse Floors in One Day

Five arrests having been made last week in what was supposed to be a gang of warehouse thieves operating in Oxford, proved at the preliminary hearing before Justice J. J. Medford last Saturday to be the work of one man, and that man was Will Blackwell, colored, who received money for the tobacco which he stole and placed upon the floor at the Farmer's Warehouse. The attempt to implicate others in the warehouse activities of the said Will Blackwell was a failure.

At the Johnson Warehouse. The initial move in Blackwell's get-rich-quick scheme was launched at the Johnson warehouse last Tuesday morning. According to the testimony at the hearing, Blackwell got hold of a pile of tobacco belonging to Mr. Badgett, which was to be re-sold. He divided the tobacco into three piles and registered it in the name of Tom Williams. With the warehouse slip in his hand, he called at the window to cash in on the tobacco, answering to the name of Tom Williams.

There was something in the transaction that aroused Capt. E. E. Fuller's suspicions and he withheld the check for investigation.

At the Mangum Warehouse. This same Will Blackwell had all of his ducks in a row and it was evidently his plan to make a big haul and skip the country. By some hook or crook he got his claws on three baskets of tobacco and registered them at the Mangum Warehouse in the name of Robert Blackwell. Blackwell's scheme, in some way or other, did not exactly tally with the warehouse system of checking, and as a result the check made out in the name of Tom Blackwell was withheld pending an investigation.

At the Farmer's Warehouse. Burt Glover, a good old colored man, placed some good tobacco on the floor at the Farmer's Warehouse bright and early last Tuesday morning. Along came the buyers and bid it in at a dollar the pound. Glover got his money and departed in peace with all the world and the balance of mankind. This same Will Blackwell that we have been talking about got hold of the Glover tobacco after it had been sold at the beginning of the sales and transferred it to the other side of the house, and registered it in the name of Bob Burnett.

When Blackwell called at the office to get his check, one of the bookkeepers asked him if his name was Bob Burnett.

"That's my name," said Blackwell. "I know Mr. Bob Burnett, a white man, very well," said the clerk.

"Yes, there is a white gentleman and a colored gentleman by the same name, and I'm the colored gentleman," said Blackwell.

In checking up the sales at the Farmer's Warehouse, Mr. Hugh Peed discovered that the Burt Glover tobacco had been sold twice on the same day—the second time in the name of Bob Burnett, who proved to be Will Blackwell.

There were more than a dozen witnesses at the hearing who testified as to the guilt of Will Blackwell in the three cases. It was Justice Medford's intention to place Blackwell's bond at \$500 in each of the three cases, but the lawyers insisted that the bond should not be quite so much, stating that if the bond was more than he could furnish he would linger in jail and be a burden to the county; wherein if the bond was reasonable, such as the prisoner could furnish, and then escape, the money would be placed to the credit of the schools. Viewing it in this light, Justice Medford placed Blackwell's bond at \$450 to cover all three cases.

## WHERE THE TROUBLE STARTED

Prof. Porta Says He Did Not Say 'Twas To Be the End of the World—There Will Be a Series of Storms in January.

Professor Albert Porta, generally credited with having predicted the end of the earth last week on account of the position of planets, made no such flat statement, according to information received in the University of Michigan circles at Ann Arbor.

Porta, who is said to be an amateur astronomer, is now living at Los Angeles, predicted that, beginning about the middle of January there would be a series of terrific storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The opinion expressed at Ann Arbor is that these forecasts have been strongly enlarged upon in telling about the end of the world prediction attributed to Porta.

Porta has never been a University of Michigan professor.

Smallpox Raging. We have received a lengthy communication from Dr. Morris, which we regret arrived too late for this issue. He addresses his letter to the unvaccinated public and warns them that the smallpox is too near for their safety. He pleads with the unvaccinated to be vaccinated immediately against smallpox.

## THE CHRIST-CHILD

The Christ-child unto the stable came  
'Twix the midnight and the morn;  
His mother laid Him softly down  
By the beasts of hoof and horn.  
The friendly kine a-near Him stood  
In the first of the early day,  
And, little Brother of all the poor,  
He slept in the fragrant hay.

Christmas time! That man must be a misanthrope indeed in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused, in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened by the recurrence of Christmas. There are people who will tell you that Christmas is to them what it used to be; that each succeeding Christmas has found some cherished hope or happy prospect of the year dimmed or passed away; that the present only serves to remind them of reduced circumstances and straitened incomes—of the feasts they once bestowed on hallow friends and of the bold look that met them now in adversity and misfortune. Never heed such dismal reminiscences. There are a few men who have lived long enough in the world who cannot call up such thoughts any day in the year. Then do not select the merriest of the 365 for your doleful recollections.

## ALL LIFE TERMERS IN STATE'S PRISON GET SENTENCES CUT DOWN

Bickett, Benevolent, Reduces Terms of Ida Ball Warren, Christy and Others.

(Raleigh Special) Governor Thomas W. Bickett Saturday issued a sweeping order commuting to 30 years each, the sentences of all the life termers in the North Carolina state prison.

"I am opposed to eternal punishment in this world," said the governor in explaining his action, and insisted that the prison sentence depriving a man of his freedom should not also deprive him of his hope.

Included in the commutations are 35 prisoners, 23 negroes and 12 whites. The white prisoners include two women one Sara Wyckoff, convicted in 1897 of murder. The life term of Ida Ball Warren and Samuel Preston Christy whose trial and conviction in Winston-Salem in 1916 attracted national attention are among those commuted.

## DISCUSSING SPECIAL ELECTION IN NINTH-DISTRICT

Majorities Vary With Candidates and Local Conditions

The New York Post has the happy faculty of discussing political events without party bias—of securing straight information to the largest extent possible—and then basing its deliverances on this information as it stands. It has succeeded in gaining a fairly accurate line upon conditions and effect in the Ninth North Carolina Congressional election. The Post says:

"If the Democrat, Hoey, has 2,000 majority as reported, he has only 500 less than Yates Webb got in 1916. Majorities vary with candidates and local conditions. This year these favored the Republicans. Their candidate, Mr. Morehead, is personally popular, and the Democratic primary left a feeling of soreness that persisted and manifested itself finally in a considerable stay-at-home vote in Mecklenburg County, whose candidate was badly defeated for the nomination. The League of Nations issue had about as much to do with the outcome as any national party issue ordinarily has. Each of the candidates merely espoused the general policy of his party. Both organizations had their eyes upon 1920. Both imported the most conspicuous men from Washington that they could get."

## PLACE "OLD GLORY" ON THE CHRISTMAS TREES

The Public Ledger recommends that "Old Glory" be placed at the top of all Christmas trees in memory of the boys who made the supreme sacrifice during the war with Germany. Oranges and apples may fade from the memory of a child, but the sight of Old Glory at the top of the Christmas tree will always be fresh in his memory.

## UNION BANK & TRUST CO.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Union Bank & Trust Co. of Oxford, N. C., will be held at the office of the Bank Tuesday, January 13th at 4 o'clock, for the election of directors and for the transaction of such business as may be brought before the meeting. J. P. HARRIS, Cashier.

## THE PUBLIC LEDGER FORCE WILL TAKE A REST

The everlasting grind incident to publishing a newspaper makes Christmas a season of great joy for it is the only period in the whole year that we are at liberty to stop, listen, think and take on new life.

The Public Ledger office will be open during the holidays for the purpose of taking inventory, placing the county financial statement in type, etc., but there will be no issue of the paper next week. The issues that we miss will be made up to our subscribers.

Here is hoping every one of our customers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## DR. HAYS GOES TO DENVER FOR THE WINTER

Expects to Return to Oxford in the Dim Future.

Writing from the United States General Hospital, Oteen, N. C., December 20, Dr. B. K. Hays, among other things, said:

"I am going to Denver for the winter and it may not be without interest to you to know that I am meeting with success in my work. The work, however, is a war emergency work, and as soon as the sick soldiers are in condition to return to their homes I expect to return to mine."

## Mr. Fred Crews Dead

The sad intelligence of the death of Mr. Fred Crews, who resided in Oxford several years ago, was received here last Friday. He was living in Fayetteville when the call came.

He had lived in Durham, Wilson and Raleigh and was connected with the hotel interests. When he was a young man he clerked in the store of the Long Company. The remains of the deceased reached Oxford Friday and were taken to the home of his sister, Mrs. S. V. Ellis. The funeral services were held from the residence Saturday afternoon conducted by Rev. R. C. Craven and assisted by Dr. Harte and Rev. S. R. Ogleby. The interment followed at Salem church.

## CAROLINA DAILIES WILL TAKE CHRISTMAS "OFF"

Greensboro, Dec. 22.—As a means to conserve news print paper and to give mechanical employes a rest, all afternoon newspapers in North Carolina will suspend publication Christmas Day and all morning newspapers will suspend Friday morning, December 26, according to announcement made by E. B. Jeffress, chairman of the American Newspaper Publisher's association conservation committee of North and South Carolina.

## A QUIET WEDDING

Miss Gray Yancey is the Bride of Mr. Royster Wiggins. Mr. Royster Wiggins and Miss Gray Yancey motored over to Henderson last Saturday and were married in the parlors of the Vance Hotel. They are spending their honeymoon in Richmond and Washington.

## CHRISTMAS BUYERS THROG THE OXFORD STORES

Crowds of Shoppers Brave Bitter Weather to Lay in Christmas Gifts.

Despite the snow, and the bitterest weather of the winter, great throngs of Christmas buyers flocked into the stores Friday and Saturday, and business opened up Monday and Tuesday with many anxious buyers at the counters clamoring to be waited upon.

## Good Stocks

Christmas stocks of goods carried by local merchants are believed to equal any in their history, and they are finding ready buyers. The high price of commodities seems not to act in any way as a deterrent to the shoppers, who have braved all kinds of weather to find the stocks to satisfy their fastidious demands.

## Fruits and Candies.

Fruits and candies this year are said to be hard to get, but there appears to be an abundance of both, at the prices asked. These, like all other goods on the market have advanced to say nothing of tobaccos of all kinds.

## Most Successful Year

In many respects the fall season now rapidly drawing to a close has been the most prosperous the merchants and the people themselves have experienced in many years. High prices for tobacco have filled the farmer's purse, and whatever he bought was almost regardless of the price asked. As a consequence money flowed freely, and the ready cash was more in evidence perhaps than ever before.

## PLAN DRASTIC MEASURES TO CUT CLOTHING PRICES

Suits Now Retailing for \$65 Ought to Sell For \$25 With Profit to All Concerned—Meeting to Be Held in Washington, Attended by Manufacturers, Workmen and Merchants Who Sell Them.

(Washington Special)

Steps to check the rising price of clothing will be discussed at a conference early in January of persons interested in the production of wearing apparel from the producing of raw materials to the finished product.

The calling of the conference was announced by Assistant Attorney-General Figg, who said that in addition to effecting economies in operation it was planned to provide for the production of standard quality cloth and garments for sale at a reasonable price as an inducement to the public to check extravagance in purchasing.

Suggestions for the conference came from producers of wearing apparel and a committee of seventeen is being selected, the personnel of which will be announced after the holidays. The Almagamated Clothing Unions will be represented in the conference.

Mr. Figg said that one essential was to have the producers to devote their capacities to necessities, meaning the type of clothing purchased by the average man. Some clothing manufacturers were said to believe that men's suits now selling for \$55 retail could be sold for a profit at \$25 if an arrangement could be worked out between mills, manufacturers and salesmen whereby these could be turned out in quantity.

There is no intention to design a "uniform" for the public, and the standard goods would be standard in quality rather than in pattern.

## TAYLOR-WOODY WEDDING

A wedding of interest to Oxford people took place in Asheville on Saturday morning when Miss Eleanor Woody became the bride of Mr. Charles A. Taylor, of Oxford. The ceremony was performed in Trinity church and the bride was given away by her brother. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Frances Woody and the groom's best man was his brother, Mr. D. K. Taylor, of Oxford. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left for a visit to Richmond, after which they will return to their home in Oxford where Mr. Taylor is connected with the First National Bank. They will receive a cordial welcome to Oxford. Among the out-of-town relatives attending the marriage were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Robards, Messrs. D. K. Taylor, H. L. Taylor, R. K. Taylor of Oxford, and Mr. J. L. Taylor of Charlotte.

## Mrs. J. P. Hunt Dead

Mrs. J. P. Hunt, an estimable lady, died at her home on Smith Hill Sunday morning after a lingering illness. The funeral was held from the Oxford Methodist church Monday afternoon, conducted by R. C. Craven who was assisted by Dr. J. D. Harte and Rev. B. C. Thompson. The interment was at Salem church.

The out of town attendants were: Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Young, Dr. Ben Allen, Byard Allen, Mark Allen, James A. Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hoggood, Dr. Robert Gill, of Henderson and R. J. Aiken of Durham.

## WANTED—COMPETANT STEENOGRAPHER FOR OFFICE WORK.

Good pay and pleasant surroundings. Apply to Chas. G. Powell, Court House.

## FORMER COMMISSIONER HARRIS COMPLIMENTS THE GOOD PEOPLE OF OXFORD

He Desires To See the Automobile Law Enforced in Town and County—He Has Heard Drivers Say That They Do Not Slow Down Until They Reach the Oxford Baptist Church Corner, Editor Public Ledger:

I wish to congratulate the commissioners of Oxford for the stand they have taken for the morals of our county, town and surrounding county. Perhaps no town has a better class of commissioners than Oxford, and, with such men as Will Mitchell and Mayor Stem as leaders, the morals of the town will be upheld at any cost. I have often said and still think that Oxford is one of the best, if not the best, moral towns in the State; yet it can be made better and these high toned, moral and Christian gentlemen, are going to see that immorality has no showing in Oxford. Gentlemen, please accept my hearty approval of what you have recently done.

Now I would like to see the proper authorities enforce the automobile law in town and county, and show the people that Granville county folks must observe and obey the law at any cost.

Here are some of the common violations of the law: People under sixteen years of age driving cars; people under the influence of whiskey driving the same thing; speeding in town and county.

I have heard people going into town over the Raleigh road say "I don't check up one particle till I get to the Oxford Baptist church." If I am rightly informed it is just as much a violation of the law to exceed 25 miles an hour in the country as it is 10 in Oxford. I very seldom see any young person but that is violating the speed law, and I for one am willing to pay my part to have this thing stopped, if it takes an expert motorcyclist to catch up with them and get their number and when caught, fine them to the full extent of the law. In this day of automobiles, people ought to be made to observe the law. E. C. HARRIS.

## A CARD FROM MR. JAMES B. POWELL

Resigns From the Office of Register of Deeds to Accept Responsible Position With the First National Bank.

To My Friends of the County:

I wish it were possible for me to shake the hands of each of you and express my thanks for your loyal support during the past thirteen years. However, as that is hardly possible I will have to content myself with this method of expressing my appreciation. I desire that each of you shall know that your loyalty shall never be forgotten, and that your kindness is appreciated not only by myself, but every member of my family. Few men in "Good Old Grenville" have been honored with such a term in office, and do not for a moment think my resignation was due to a lack of appreciation. I am your friend and the county's friend, and I am ever ready to render any service I can.

I am leaving the Office of the Register of Deeds to accept a position with the First National Bank of Oxford, I believe I am going with an institution whose ideal is the upbuilding of our county, and if I have been faithful to my trust while Register of Deeds, then I sincerely hope you will honor me with your confidence and business in my new undertaking.

Friends, I know that I have tried to serve you faithfully and it is you who must decide if I have succeeded.

Again thanking you for your support, allow me to extend to you an ever open hand at the First National Bank.

Truly your friend, J. B. POWELL.

## PLATOON OF SOLDIERS WILL SPEND CHRISTMAS IN OXFORD

They Are Quartered in the Armory

A platoon of artillerymen, with equipment, arrived in Oxford at noon Monday. They are attached to Camp Bragg, Fayetteville, and are traveling in the interest of recruitment. There are 45 men and 46 horses, 6 mules and several cannon in the equipment, commanded by Capt. A. P. Uelt.

The soldiers are quartered in the armory and the horses are in a lot on New College street. They will remain in Oxford several days.

## Christmas Greetings

In glancing over this paper the readers of the Public Ledger will notice that many of our best and most thoughtful business men wish them a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

## Presbyterian Christmas Tree

The Presbyterian Sunday School will have their Christmas tree on Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. The Program is being prepared under the direction of Mrs. W. D. Bryan.