

# The Concord Daily Tribune.

VOL XXII Price 40 Cents a Month.

CONCORD, N. C. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1912.

Single Copy, Five Cents. NO. 159

## ROSS CONFESSES CRIME

Negro Hired by White Man to Do  
Dixon Murder.—Says Gladden Kill-  
ed Wife.

Special to Charlotte Observer.  
Shelby, Jan. 9.—John Ross, charged  
with the murder of Mr. and Mrs.  
John Dixon on the morning of De-  
cember 13, confessed to Sheriff D. D.  
Wilkins Monday that he was respon-  
sible for the death of Mr. Dixon and  
that Frank Gladden, white, killed  
Mrs. Dixon and programmed the entire  
plot of crime and blood. The evi-  
dence of the sheriff concluded the  
testimony that was brought forward  
by the prosecution today and finish-  
ed the case so far as John Ross was  
concerned. It came as a fitting cul-  
mination to a string of circumstantial  
evidence that hung heavily over John  
Ross as the principal in the most  
horrible crime ever enacted in Cleve-  
land county and one of the most hein-  
ous on record in North Carolina.

There was nothing sensational  
about the sheriff's repetition of John  
Ross's confession, although it was the  
first time, he said, he had disclosed  
the story to a living soul. He told  
it calmly, marking well every impor-  
tant utterance, losing nothing of the  
dramatic opportunity of the mo-  
ment.

"John Ross informed me that he  
wanted to see me yesterday morn-  
ing," Sheriff Wilkins proceeded. "I  
have promised to tell you the truth,"  
the negro said, "and I am going to  
tell it." "I made no threats or held  
out any hope to him in event of con-  
fession." "On the Tuesday night before  
the murder," Ross said, "I left home  
to go to Cliff Hoyle's. Frank Glad-  
den caught up with me on the way.  
He said I want you to go with me to  
get some money. I've got to have it.  
I followed him down toward the Dix-  
on home. When I reached the wood-  
pile Gladden says to me, 'I'm going  
to have money out of Dixon or have  
him; go—d— you've got to help  
me. Gladden went around the house  
and in a short time came back and  
said, 'Now, damn you, I have car-  
ried Dixon's axe to the barn, I am  
going to call him out, I am going  
to tell him I want to buy some chest-  
nuts. We will go between the barn  
and granary.'

"While we were going to the  
barn, Gladden kept talking to Mr.  
Dixon. I went to the place Gladden  
told me the axe was and conceal-  
ed myself in a corner of the shed.  
Mr. Dixon had a lantern on his arm.  
Gladden signed me, by a turn of the  
lantern when to strike, and I did it.  
Just as I hit Mr. Dixon over the head  
with the axe, I fell to my knees. Glad-  
den said, 'Go—d— you, what are  
you doing down there? Get up and  
run up the road to see if anybody is  
coming!' I went back toward the  
house and went up the road a short  
piece. I heard Gladden step on the  
Dixon home's porch and heard Mrs.  
Dixon say, 'Don't do that.' In  
about ten minutes Gladden came out  
and said, 'I had to knock hell out of  
that woman. I got \$25 or \$30 from  
Dixon, though.' We walked on to-  
ward Wrights. Gladden said 'What  
two damn negroes can we put this  
on? Why can't we put it on Will and  
Haek Ross? Ain't Will had a fuss  
with Dixon about a mortgage? If  
anything ever comes of this, you put  
it on Will and Haek and I will give  
you \$100.' 'I killed Mr. Dixon  
and Gladden killed 'Miss Clayton,'"  
The grand jury returned true bills  
against Gladden today on two counts  
and he will be tried immediately af-  
ter Ross.

## Southern Loan and Trust Company

The directors of the Southern  
Loan & Trust Co. held their annual  
January meeting yesterday afternoon  
in the offices of the company here.  
The reports of the officials of the  
company were very gratifying in-  
deed. A semi-annual dividend was  
declared and ordered paid. The di-  
rectors are: Messrs. L. J. Felt, D. B.  
Coltrane, W. M. Smith, W. W. W.  
Flowers, Paul Barringer, R. S. Young,  
E. J. Mebane, C. A. Leebour, W. C.  
Houston, J. A. Cannon, T. W. Smith,  
J. P. Allison, J. F. Goodman, and  
John M. Cook.

## Miss Bertha Honeycutt Married.

A marriage that will be of inter-  
est to the people of Concord took  
place in Charlotte Sunday morning,  
when Miss Bertha Honeycutt, daugh-  
ter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Honeycutt,  
of this city, was married to Mr. John  
Elliott. Miss Honeycutt had been in  
Charlotte several weeks, being pian-  
ist at one of the picture shows there  
and the announcement of her mar-  
riage came as quite a surprise to her  
family and the public here. Mr. and  
Mrs. Elliott are now living in Char-  
lotte.

## Marriage This Evening.

A social event of interest will be  
the marriage this evening of Miss  
Eva May Brown and Mr. William  
T. Linker, which will take place at  
the home of the bride's parents, Mr.  
and Mrs. George W. Brown, on South  
Union street. Miss Mollie Brown  
will be maid of honor and Mrs. Mark  
Linker dote of honor. Little Miss  
Sarah Ellen Linker will be ring bear-  
er. Mr. Mark Linker, a brother of  
the groom, will be best man, and the  
bride will be given away by her  
brother, Mr. Frank Brown.

## BALTIMORE IS WINNER

Democratic National Convention to  
Meet There June 25.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Demo-  
cratic national committee completed  
its work here today with the selec-  
tion of Baltimore as convention city.  
June 25 was fixed as the date of the  
national gathering when candidates  
for President and Vice President will  
be selected. The Republican national  
convention is to be held in Chicago  
June 18.

Harmony marked today's sitting  
of the committee which was given  
over almost entirely to the argu-  
ments of the representatives of the  
various cities bidding for the con-  
vention. William J. Bryan did not  
attend the meeting. He had not finish-  
ed his speech at the Jackson Day  
banquet until well after 3 o'clock  
this morning.

Baltimore led in the fight for the  
convention from the very first, but  
two ballots were required before St.  
Louis succumbed. Then the vote was  
made unanimous. The Baltimore bid  
was accompanied by a certified check  
for \$100,000. The date of the con-  
vention, June 25, suggested by F. B.  
Lynch, of Minnesota, was unanimous.

The convention will be held in the  
Fifth Regiment armory, Baltimore's  
largest auditorium. The armory is  
an imposing structure of granite and  
architectural experts say will seat  
comfortably more than 12,000 per-  
sons, allowing ample space for prom-  
enades, aisles, etc. If necessary the  
seating capacity can be increased to  
more than 20,000 persons. Experts  
say the acoustical properties can be  
made almost perfect for a hall of its  
size.

## Charleston Race Meeting Opens.

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 10.—An  
ambitious effort to make this city the  
real center of winter racing in Amer-  
ica was inaugurated today with the  
opening of the seventy-five-day race  
meeting planned by the Charleston  
Fair and Racing Association. The  
management is pleased with the pros-  
pects for success. Hundreds of thor-  
oughbreds are now quartered at the  
local course, and additional applica-  
tions for stable room are being re-  
ceived daily. Gathered in Charleston  
for the first time are many turfmen  
whose faces are familiar on the met-  
ropolitan tracks.

Thirty thousand dollars has been  
set aside by the promoters of the  
meeting to be expended in purses for  
stake events alone. The programme  
provides for twenty events of this  
character, fifteen for horses of the  
more mature division and five for  
the baby racers. The feature event  
of the meeting will be the Palmetto  
Derby, one mile and a quarter, worth  
\$3,000.

## To Elect Two Senators.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 10.—The gen-  
eral assembly of Virginia convened  
today and organized for its regular  
biennial session. Early in the ses-  
sion will come the election of two  
United States senators. There will  
be no contest for either, though, how-  
ever, as the results of the recent De-  
mocratic primary insure the re-election  
of both Senators Swanson and Mar-  
tin. The former will get the short  
term and the last named the long  
term. Following the election of sen-  
ators the legislature will elect a  
score of judges and various other of-  
ficials.

## The legislative business of the ses- sion promises to be of more than or- dinary interest and importance. Ov- ershadowing all other measures will be those relating to taxation, the liq- uor question and the contract sys- tem of prison labor.

## Two in Favor of Primary to Nom- inate U. S. Senator.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Senator Sim-  
mons and Judge Walter Clark, two  
of the candidates for the seat in the  
senate held by Mr. Simmons, met  
today and agreed that they want-  
ed a primary and that the best time  
to hold it is on election day in Nov-  
ember. For some time Senator Sim-  
mons has favored a senatorial pri-  
mary. Election day will suit him. He  
and Mr. Clark conferred on the mat-  
ter at the senate today. They do not  
intend to try to influence the com-  
mittee but hope that the committee  
will see it as they do.

## For Masonic Home.

Greensboro, N. C., Jan. 9.—Inter-  
esting ceremonies attended the lay-  
ing of the cornerstone here today for  
the home to be erected for the aged  
and indigent members of the Masonic  
fraternity in North Carolina and  
their widows and orphans. Grand  
Master R. N. Hackett presided at the  
ceremony. The institution, which is  
rapidly nearing completion, occupies  
a site of twenty-five acres situated  
on the outskirts of the city.

## Honor Memory of Former Governor.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 10.—A marble  
bust of Governor Samuel Johnson,  
one of the earliest governors of  
North Carolina, was placed in the  
rotunda of the State house here to-  
day. The ceremony was in charge  
of the North Carolina grand lodge of  
Masons, of which Governor Johnson  
was the first grandmaster.

## CITY FATHERS MEET.

Agreement With Street Car Com-  
pany.—Recorder Puryear Re-elected.  
—Routine Matters.

The regular monthly session of the  
city fathers was held last night at the  
city hall. The meeting was in the  
nature of a private one, not that the  
fathers objected to anyone being  
present, but the usual number of citi-  
zens who watch the deliberations of  
the board with interest were conspic-  
uous by their non-presence. Plain,  
ordinary, routine business held a firm  
grasp on the board last night, caus-  
ing the deliberations to move along  
with a common place monotony. All  
in all the proceedings were marked  
by a lack of manifestation of any  
"animated moderation."

The board and the street car com-  
pany reached an agreement whereby  
the track of the company would not  
be constructed in the business sec-  
tion of the city from the Lutheran  
church to the square until March 1.  
The city contemplates putting down  
some kind of pavement on the street  
in this section and if the company  
built the track now it would have to  
be torn up at that time. On account  
of the winter weather the board is  
of the opinion that if the paving  
work was started now it would have  
a paralyzing effect on business in this  
section as the work could make very  
little progress during the bad weather.  
The regular election of a recorder  
for the municipal court was held  
and Recorder Puryear was re-elected.  
There was no other applicant for the  
position and Mr. Puryear received  
the full vote of the board with the  
exception of Alderman Barrier, who  
voted against him.

The reports of the various commit-  
tees were received and all bills ap-  
proved by the finance committee or-  
dered paid.

## Southern Power Lineman Burned.

Albemarle, Jan. 9.—P. S. Young-  
blood, lineman for the Southern  
Power Company, a resident of this  
place, was the victim yesterday of an  
accident which came very near cost-  
ing him his life. He was working  
on one of the company's large steel  
towers and while thus engaged came  
into contact with a live wire, which  
he thought was dead. The wire was  
not one of the main ones, but was a  
ground wire, not supposed to be  
charged. One of his hands was se-  
riously burned, also his legs. He  
would have fallen from the tower  
had it not been for his belt which  
was fastened and supported him un-  
til he revived. Fortunately for Mr.  
Youngblood, he carried Josh Moody  
out with him yesterday, and it was  
only the thoughtfulness of Moody  
that saved his life. Moody jerked  
the wire out of Youngblood's hands  
just in time to save his life. He was  
helpless for several minutes, but re-  
vived and without assistance climbed  
down, but again fell when he got to  
the ground.

## New Mecklenburg Declaration Proof.

Charlotte Observer.  
Next Sunday The Observer will  
have the great pleasure of presenting  
a contribution to the literature of the  
Mecklenburg Declaration of Indepen-  
dence which is believed to be en-  
tirely new and which has an import-  
ance of the very first order. It takes  
the post-contemporaneous evidence as  
far back as 1791, showing that "the  
Mecklenburg Declaration of Indepen-  
dence"—by name—was discussed  
before no less a person than George  
Washington as an event whereof  
Mecklenburg County and North Caro-  
lina could justly boast.

## The article conveying this evidence is written by Dr. Archibald Hender- son of the University of North Caro- lina; and his international reputation as a writer upon the widest variety of critical themes is a sufficient war- rant that the manner of presenta- tion will be even more than in keep- ing with a discovery which may quite conceivably win over all doubters ex- cept a surviving remnant of the very ignorant or the very wilful kind.

## The Torrens System.

Asheville Gazette-News.  
The Gazette-News expects to begin  
at an early date, publication of a se-  
ries of articles on the subject of the  
Torrens system of land title transfer,  
compiled from the best data obtain-  
able. This subject will again be be-  
fore the legislature next winter, and  
it may be that we as voters will wish  
to know how the candidates for the  
general assembly stand upon it. The  
series will not necessarily be a brief  
either for or against the adoption of  
the system, except in so far as the  
facts are for or against it. The in-  
tention is to present the actual facts  
as to the operation, plan and history  
of the Torrens system.

## Poplar Tent School.

The following pupils attained the  
honor roll from the primary depart-  
ment of the "Poplar Tent" school:  
George Oehler, Martin Cline, Esther  
Cline, Maggie Cline, Mack Cline and  
C. J. Allison.

The lower branch of the Kentucky  
legislature now in session has two  
members bearing the name of James  
A. Leach. The two are not related.  
One is a Democrat and the other a  
Republican.

## SUPREME COURT HAS ANNULLED N. C. LAW.

Holds That the Statute of 1905  
Which Penalized Railroads Is Un-  
constitutional.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—The  
Supreme Court today annulled the  
North Carolina statute of 1905, which  
penalized railroads for refusing to  
accept goods for interstate commerce.  
The constitutionality of the penal-  
ty law was raised when the Southern  
railway was sued by Reid and Beam,  
of Rutherfordton, N. C., for refusal  
to receive a carload of shingles for  
shipment to Scottsville, Tenn.

The court also decided that Mrs.  
D. L. Reid, who was delayed for five  
days in getting the Southern Rail-  
way to receive her household goods  
for shipment from Charlotte, N. C.,  
to Davis, W. Va., was not entitled to  
\$250 as penalty and \$25 as dam-  
ages under the statute.

In this case the Supreme Court of  
North Carolina held that the mere  
fact that the railroad had no pub-  
lished rate under the interstate com-  
merce laws from Charlotte to Davis  
and could not ship the goods without  
a fixed public rate did not excuse the  
railroad. The Supreme Court of the  
United States today held that the  
federal government alone could regulate  
the receipt of goods.

## Grand Lodge of Masons in Session at Raleigh.

Raleigh, Jan. 9.—The one hundred  
and twenty-fifth annual communica-  
tion of the North Carolina Grand  
Lodge of Masons convened in the  
Grand Lodge Temple here tonight  
with Deputy Grand Master William  
B. McKop, of Wilmington, presiding  
in the absence of Grand Master Rich-  
ard N. Hackett, of Wilkesboro, who  
will arrive later. The report of Grand  
Secretary John C. Drewry showed  
that the order has grown during the  
year from 20,846 to 21,471 members  
with six new lodges established. Only  
one lodge was suspended, this being  
Flot Springs, Madison county. In  
sixteen years Masonry has increased  
four hundred per cent. In finances  
raised and the membership has grown  
from 9,842 to 21,479. The receipts  
last year aggregated \$19,701. The re-  
port for the thirty-ninth year of the  
Masonic orphanage at Oxford showed  
an enrollment of 316 and a year  
of especially gratifying progress.

## Census Bureau's Ginning Report.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Census  
Bureau's eighth cotton ginning re-  
port, of the season, issued at 10 a. m.  
today and showing the number of  
running bales, counting round and  
half bales, of cotton of the growth of  
1911 ginned prior to January 1, with  
comparative statistics for last year  
and other years, is as follows:  
United States, 14,332,756 bales  
compared with 11,084,515 bales last  
year, when 95.8 per cent. of the en-  
tire crop was ginned prior to Janu-  
ary 1; 12,465,298 bales in 1908, when  
95.3 per cent. was ginned, and 11,  
741,039 bales in 1906, when 90.4 per  
cent. was ginned.

Round bales included were 96,228  
compared with 109,292 bales last  
year, 143,949 bales in 1909 and 230,  
572 bales in 1908.

Sea Island cotton bales included  
were 106,439 compared with 82,432  
bales last year, 89,611 bales in 1909,  
and 86,528 bales in 1908.

## Mr. Stuart Morrison Goes to Wilson.

Wilson Times.  
Mr. M. S. Morrison, of Winston-  
Salem, N. C., has purchased the in-  
terest in Burlington & Moore, incor-  
porated owned by the late J. S. Ed-  
wards.

Mr. Morrison comes to us highly  
recommended; he has been in the  
drug business for 14 years and is a  
graduate of the University of Mary-  
land, pharmacy department class,  
1906. For the past 5 years he has  
been at the head of the prescription  
department of the Owens' Drug Co.,  
of Winston-Salem, N. C., and also  
was secretary-treasurer of the com-  
pany. Mrs. Morrison and little son,  
who are now visiting her parents,  
Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Perry, of Macon,  
N. C., will arrive about February 1.  
We extend to them a hearty welcome.

## Cheaper Stamped Envelopes.

Government stamped envelopes  
were reduced this week by order of  
Uncle Sam to his postmasters.  
The common size 2-cent stamped  
envelopes will cost \$21.24 and \$21.36  
per 1,000, a decrease of 8 cents per  
1,000. No. 7 envelopes will cost  
\$21.80 instead of \$21.84.

Number 8 and 9 envelopes have  
been raised, the former being raised  
to \$22 instead of \$21.84 and the lat-  
ter raised to \$22.16 over \$22.04.

Robert P. Bass, the first direct pri-  
mary governor of New Hampshire,  
and who is now mentioned for United  
States Senator from the Granite  
State, is to be married in a few  
weeks to Miss Edith H. Bird, daugh-  
ter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Bird,  
of East Walpole, Mass.

The record of service of William  
K. Reynolds, who has completed a  
quarter of a century as a member of  
the city council of Providence, R. I.,  
is believed to be without an equal  
anywhere in the country.

## RICHESON SENTENCED.

To Be Electrocuted May 19.—Now Up  
to Governor Foss.

Boston, Jan. 9.—A plea of guilty  
of murder in the first degree was  
made by Rev. Clarence V. T. Riches-  
on in the Superior Court today and  
he was sentenced by Judge Sanderson  
to death by electrocution some  
time during the week of May 19,  
1912. Richeson had pleaded not  
guilty when arraigned after his in-  
diction on the charge of murdering  
Avis Linnell, of Hyannis, Mass., his  
former fiancée, but following a writ-  
ten confession made public Saturday  
last he today retracted that plea and  
made a formal plea of guilty. It is  
understood that a petition may be  
made to Governor Foss and the exe-  
cutive council of the State to com-  
mute the death sentence to imprison-  
ment for life.

While displaying remarkable stoic-  
ism, the young Virginian appeared to  
those who crowded the little court-  
room as if he were conducting his  
own funeral. Yet as he walked out  
of the courtroom there was a trace  
of the oldtime jauntness that seem-  
ed to many to indicate that his fight  
was not yet finished.

To the half dozen questions which  
Judge Sanderson put to Richeson as  
to whether he realized the full na-  
ture and effect of his acknowlegement  
of guilt he answered without the  
slightest emotion, always in the  
affirmative.

Richeson's counsel declared after  
the proceedings that an appeal for  
executive clemency would follow soon  
and that every effort would be made  
to obtain life imprisonment instead  
of death as the punishment.

Upon what ground the petition will  
be based has not yet been decided.

## Mr. Boyden Wedding Out After Accident.

Mr. B. M. Weddington, of No. 1  
township, was in Concord yesterday  
for the first time since he met with  
an accident on Thursday, December  
28. He was going home from this  
city in his buggy when, just beyond  
the Brown mill, an automobile ap-  
proached. His horse turned around  
and started to run, being frightened  
by the gay decorations on the ma-  
chine. The buggy was turned over  
in a gulley and Mr. Weddington  
thrown out. He was pretty badly  
bruised and was laid up for several  
days. The young men who were driv-  
ing the car got out and rendered  
him every assistance possible. They  
caught the horse, hitched it again to  
the buggy and Mr. Weddington was  
able to drive home alone. No  
blame is attached to the drivers of  
the machine.

## Cornerstone Laid for the Masonic Home.

Greensboro, Jan. 9.—Interesting  
ceremonies attended the laying of the  
cornerstone here today for the home  
to be erected for the aged and in-  
digent members of the Masonic frater-  
nity in North Carolina and their  
widows and orphans. Grand Master  
R. N. Hackett presided at the cere-  
mony. The institution, which is rap-  
idly nearing completion, occupies a  
site of twenty-five acres situated on  
the outskirts of the city.

## A Query.

A Concord man went to sleep one  
night and left his wife talking.  
The first thing he heard upon awak-  
ening the next morning was her talk,  
which led him to ask: "Marriage, are  
you talking agin or yit?" Is Mr. Bryan  
talking "agin or yit?"

## Many a Mother has seen her delicate child grow strong and sturdy on

## Grape-Nuts

FOOD

It is rich in the natural food  
elements of wheat and barley,  
including Phosphate of Pot-  
ash—the vital tissue salt of  
brain and nerve matter—fre-  
quently lacking in the ordi-  
nary diet.

A regular morning dish of  
Grape Nuts with cream is an  
ideal breakfast for putting  
rosy color and strength into  
little folks.

Children like the natural,  
sweet taste of Grape-Nuts  
food and thrive upon it.

## "There's a Reason"

Postum Cereal Co., Limited,  
Battle Creek, Mich.

## PERSONAL MENTIONS

Some of the People Here and Else-  
where Who Come And Go.

Mrs. D. B. Coltrane spent yester-  
day afternoon in Charlotte.

Mr. Henry Propst, of Lexington,  
is a visitor in the city today.

Mr. E. T. Buchanan, of Charlotte,  
is a business visitor in the city to-  
day.

Mr. J. L. Carpenter, of Greenville,  
S. C., was a visitor in the city last  
night.

Mr. Fred H. Hull, national bank  
examiner, is here today on official  
business.

Mr. Chal White has gone to east-  
ern North Carolina on a week's busi-  
ness trip.

Rev. J. H. West went to Charlotte  
yesterday afternoon to see Judge  
Montgomery.

Miss Anna Wolff, of Baltimore, is  
visiting at the home of her uncle,  
Mr. S. A. Wolff.

Dr. R. S. Young spent yesterday  
afternoon in Charlotte with his moth-  
er, Mrs. Sarah Young.

Mrs. J. F. Cannon has gone to  
Winston-Salem to visit her parents,  
Col. and Mrs. J. L. Ludlow.

## NORTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Items of News From All Parts of the  
Old North State.

Rev. R. Lee Davis has sold his  
interest in Davis White Sulphur  
Springs Hotel and Davis' Reller  
Mill at Hiddenite to his brother, Mr.  
W. J. Davis, Mr. Earl Davis and Dr.  
Leeper, Mr. W. J. Davis' son and son-  
in-law, for \$15,000.

Sheriff Wallace, of Mecklenburg  
county, is willing, not anxious, to  
hold on to his job, but already S. W.  
Porter and W. S. Orr have indicated  
a willingness to relieve him.

Two colored men of Wade, Cum-  
berland county, feeling "under the  
weather," drank what they thought  
was tea made of sarsaparilla root.  
Soon they were seized with a vio-  
lent illness and they died in a few  
hours.

The Militant Progressive Republi-  
can League of Massachusetts has  
been formed for the definite object  
of opposing Senators Lodge and  
Crane as delegates to the Republi-  
can national convention next June.

Governor Plaisted, of Maine, has  
called a special session of the leg-  
islature to meet in March to consider  
the liquor laws, rearrange the con-  
gressional districts and revise the elec-  
tion laws of the State.

If Roosevelt shouldn't be nominat-  
ed, and President Taft defeated,  
Roosevelt would lose the honor or be-  
lieve the only living ex-president.

# Special Values in Blankets, Quilts and Underwear!

Cotton Blankets for single beds.....49c to 79c  
Extra good Cotton Blankets, values up to  
\$1.25—Special .....89c—98c Pair  
Tan, Grey and White.

Extra size and weight Grey and White 11-4  
Blankets—Special .....\$1.25

### WOOL BLANKETS UNDERPRICED

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