

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OPEN TOMORROW

Both Parties Will Hold Caucus Tonight and Decide Who is to Get the Various Positions Offered.

MISS ROSA MUND IN HARD FIGHT

Concord Woman is Seeking Job of Engrossing Clerk in House—Other Hard Fights Are Expected.

(By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, Jan. 2.—With all the principal leaders of the two parties in Raleigh, caucuses scheduled for tonight will nominate candidates for elective places in the General Assembly, and leave but the formalities of ratification when the lawmakers convene in biennial session tomorrow at noon.

The Democrats, who have complete control of both assembly branches, are expected to nominate John G. Dawson, of Winston, as speaker of the House, and W. Lunsford Long, of Halifax, as President pro-tempore of the Senate.

The nine republicans of the House will put up Chas. H. Cooke, of Wilkes, as minority leader, while party members in the Senate will select Rufe Hammore for the same duties in that branch, according to predictions made by leaders today.

Col. Peter McWilliams, of Wake, and General Greene, of Guilford are opposing each other for the post of Sergeant at Arms in the House. W. D. Gaster, of Cumberland, is asking for the Sergeant at Arms position in the Senate. Frank D. Hackett, of North Wilkesboro, and Aleck Lassiter are unopposed for the principal clerkship of the Senate and House respectively.

North Henderson Men Organize. The N. C. Jan. 2.—An organization of North Henderson men who are determined to turn over a new leaf, and make our community a more law abiding place in which to live, will be completed tomorrow night at a meeting to be held in a local church.

We, the undersigned men of North Henderson, do hereby announce that we have organized a club for the up-building of our community, and would be glad to have all men interested whose names do not appear here to join us at our next meeting Tuesday night, at North Henderson Methodist Episcopal church, seven o'clock, January 2, 1923. All the names below to firmly stand for the right.

The officials and members of the organization are T. E. Rooker, president; D. T. Clayton, vice-president; W. P. Baker, secretary; S. B. Rogers, treasurer; C. B. Lowery, justice; E. G. Reams, deputy sheriff; J. W. Knight, J. C. Hight, M. G. Proffitt, C. G. Lester, S. E. Bame, T. H. Strange, D. G. Williams, R. E. Huffman, G. L. Rooker, R. L. Jenkins, Jessie Hale, R. H. Baker, Martin Fletcher, W. D. Ayscue, W. A. Bartholomew, G. A. Proffitt, G. H. Parrish, C. S. Strange, Rev. G. G. Whitehurst, John S. Royter, sheriff; R. S. Ellis, deputy sheriff.

Reception at McLean Home in Lumberton a Large Affair. Lumberton, Jan. 1.—Approximately 500 people, representing all parts of the county called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McLean here this afternoon between the hours of 3 and 6 o'clock to meet Governor Morrison. The New Year reception given by Mr. and Mrs. McLean in honor of the governor and his daughter, Miss Anselma, was an informal affair, but one of the most elaborate ever given in Lumberton. The McLean home was artistically decorated and refreshments were served the many visitors.

One Killed and Two Others Hurt in Automobile Wreck. Salisbury, Md., Jan. 1.—Douglas Mapp, 39, salesman for a tire concern on the eastern shore of Maryland and in Virginia for several years, was killed, and three others injured, two probably fatally, yesterday when an automobile in which they were riding struck a telephone pole and turned turtle.

The injured are: Mrs. Douglas Mapp, fractured skull and broken leg; Mrs. Alexander T. Grier, crushed breast and internal injuries, and Alexander Grier, slight bruises. All are residents of this place. Funeral services were conducted for Mapp today, and a body will be shipped to this city, his former home, tomorrow.

Renew Search for Mrs. Clara Phillips in West

(By the Associated Press.) Los Angeles, Jan. 2.—Renewed search for Mrs. Clara Phillips, "hammer" mistress, who escaped from the Los Angeles county jail, December 3, entered today around a note found about 100 feet from a cabin in a lonely canyon near Los Angeles where, sheriff's deputies declared last night, they were convinced she had hidden for at least four days after jail breaking.

The note, weighted down by a rock, and partly concealed in brush on a trail leading to the cabin said: "Clara: Will see you Wednesday. For God's sake be careful." The message was written in a masculine hand, on the margin of a newspaper, and officers say they regard it as authentic.

POINCARÉ OFFERS REPARATIONS PLAN

French Premier Offers to Reduce Reparations to 50 Billion Marks. Paris, Jan. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Premier Poincaré, of France, offered at today's conference of the allied leaders a proposal for a reduction of German reparations to 50,000,000,000 marks.

The French plan offers a two year moratorium, but it exacts productive guarantees to insure resumption of the payments later by the Germans.

Under the French plan the Class C bonds would be used to extinguish the inter-allied debts. Paris, Jan. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—Prime Minister Bonar Law and Premier Poincaré appeared to be further apart in the opening session of the reparations conference today than they were at the end of the London meeting in December. Each presented the carefully considered plans of their respective governments, and these were being studied this evening in comparison with the British plan, which endeavors to reconcile the two extremes.

M. Poincaré announced to the conference that the French government would agree to scale down Germany's reparations to fifty billion gold marks, subject to several limitations.

WANT BENCH WARRANT FOR LINCOLN DEPUTY

Solicitor Huffman Asks Harding to Bring Baxter to Charlotte for Trial. Charlotte, Jan. 2.—A bench warrant will be issued by Judge W. F. Harding, at the request of Solicitor R. L. Huffman, compelling Deputy Baxter, of Lincoln county, to appear before him in a preliminary hearing in which he will be charged with the murder of Fred Allison, young Charlotte mechanic.

Solicitor Huffman announced that a bench warrant would supersede the warrant issued at his instance Saturday returnable before a Lincoln county magistrate and will be issued as a result of information which Solicitor Huffman secured after reaching Charlotte from Ed Owens and Jim Craig, Allison's companions on the night of the shooting.

Solicitor Huffman declared that he did not expect to prosecute Owens and Craig on the charge of transporting liquor by reason of whatever testimony they would make tending to throw light on exactly what happened when the car in which they and Fred Allison were riding was stopped by Deputies Baxter and Scott Miller.

The two Charlotte men have not made any authorized statements and Solicitor Huffman said that whatever they told him would be reduced to affidavit form for use in the prosecution of Baxter, against whom a warrant has already been issued.

There was heard strong whispering reflecting upon conduct and official actions of Deputy Baxter, especially in his relations with rum-runners, and Solicitor Huffman admitted in his rooms at a local hotel this afternoon. Solicitor Huffman went to Lincoln tonight to confer with W. C. Foimster and make arrangements for postponing preliminary hearing of Baxter which has been set for 10 o'clock Tuesday morning at that place.

Death and Burial of Junius Hoke

Junius Hoke Rickard was born September 29, 1857, and died December 24, 1922, aged 25 years, 2 months and 15 days. A little more than a year ago he went to a sanatorium at Allouezville, New Jersey, in the hope of the recovery of his health from the fatal disease which finally claimed him.

His body was returned home to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Rickard, China Grove, reaching there on Saturday morning, December 30, 1922, on train No. 11. On Sunday morning following, the funeral services were held in Lutheran Chapel Church, of which he had been a faithful member. The services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. C. A. Brown, assisted by Rev. C. P. Fisher, in the presence of an unusually large concourse of sympathizing relatives and friends, after which the body was laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery.

Hoke was a most excellent young man and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He leaves to mourn his death a devoted father and mother, two brothers, Elmer and Frank, and a very large circle of friends and relatives.

Tin Can Tourists of the World to Convene

Tampa, Fla., Jan. 1.—More than 5,000 tin canners, tourists who travel in automobiles, are expected to attend the fourth annual convention of the Tin Can Tourists of the World which begins at Desoto Park here Monday night, to be continued all the week. C. M. Tremaine, of Fredonia, N. Y., Royal Tin Can Opener, will preside at the sessions.

DIXIE FLYER DERAILED SIX MILES FROM MACON

Two Persons Were Seriously Injured and Seven Others Hurt in Wreck. Macon, Ga., Jan. 2.—Two persons were seriously injured and seven others hurt when the Dixie Flyer, north-bound, Jacksonville to Chicago, was derailed six miles west of Macon near Mifflin, this morning at 6:43, several of the injured were brought to a local hospital where their injuries were treated.

The two day coaches, one sleeper, and the dining car, were disconnected from the other cars, and plunged down a 15-foot embankment. The injured were taken to the Oglethorpe private infirmary. Those described as seriously hurt are: Mrs. J. A. Kitchens, Sylvester, Ga.; and Jack Faulkner, Waycross, Ga.

ALFRED E. SMITH TAKES OATH AS GOVERNOR

Downpour of Rain Prevents Great Throng From Seeing Him Begin Second Term. Albany, N. Y., Jan. 2.—After two years of absence from public life Alfred E. Smith was today installed as governor of New York. Drenching rain and sleet-filled streets kept the greater part of the estimated 50,000 visitors indoors and the military parade was disbanded by order of the new governor almost as soon as it had started.

The new executive, from the first time in a century, was driven from the executive mansion to the capitol without a military escort. In the assembly chamber 1,500 persons witnessed the inaugural ceremonies. In his inaugural address Governor Smith said: "We have in this state, as we should have, pure government under a representative democracy. The only vehicle for ascertaining the public will, and then giving it force and effect afterwards, is party government. I expect the full cooperation of the members of my party and also the members of the other party."

"We can better our great educational system throughout the state; we can improve our hospitals and our charitable institutions; we can keep up to the standard that they should be all our great public works in the state; we can maintain efficiency in every branch of the government and have square dealing as between the different groups throughout the state."

"In order to accomplish this here, in this place, today I ask the cooperation of the legislature."

Fifty-Seven Lynchings in Year; Texas Leads With Eighteen

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 1.—Texas led the nation in the number of lynchings during 1922, with Georgia second and Mississippi third, according to statistics compiled and made public here today by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Fifty-seven persons were lynched during the year, fifty-one negroes and six white, the report said, seven less than for 1921. Thirteen of the persons lynched were taken from jails, and seventeen from officers of the law outside of jails.

The ten states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Texas, 18; Georgia, 11; Mississippi, 9; Florida, 5; Arkansas, 5; Louisiana, 3; Alabama, 2; Tennessee, 2; Oklahoma, 1, and South Carolina 1.

The report further states that there were fifty-eight instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Fourteen of these instances were in northern states, and forty-four were in southern states.

In ten instances, the report added, convictions carrying penitentiary sentences were obtained against lynchers.

With Our Advertisers. Fisher's is making exceptional reductions on wraps, coats and furs. New ad, today gives price particulars.

The Citizens Bank and Trust Company carries a new ad. in this paper each day. The ads. are written for your benefit and will prove of interest and profit to you if you read them carefully. Don't fail to read new ad, today.

H. B. Wilkinson can give you just what you want in dining room furniture. The company has a large selection now to choose from.

Ask your grocer about Butter-Nut bread. Good Marriage Year in County of Rowan. Salisbury, Jan. 1.—Reports furnished by Register of Deeds Max L. Barker show that during the past year 431 sets of marriage licenses were issued to couples marrying in Rowan county. December led in the number issued with 74.

STATE REVENUE ACT VALID, SAYS COURT

Revenue Act of 1921 of North Carolina is Upheld in Decision by United States Supreme Court.

RAILROAD TOOK LAW TO COURT

Rail Company Objected to Law Because it Imposed a Tax on Railroad Property in the State.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 2.—The revenue act of North Carolina of 1921 imposing a tax upon the property of railroads within that state today was held constitutionally by the Supreme Court in cases brought by the Atlantic Coast Line and four other railroad companies.

The United States District Court for eastern North Carolina refused to grant an injunction to restrain the collection of the tax, but stayed its collection pending the appeal to the Supreme Court.

It also found that the tax was not objectionable under the Federal constitution and that it was not invalid under the laws of North Carolina.

THE COTTON MARKET

There was a Flurry at the Opening Today Owing to Firm Cables and Feeling of Optimism. (By the Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 2.—There was quite a flurry of buying at the opening of the cotton market today owing to relatively firm cables, reports of a good tone in the markets for stock and foreign exchange, and a generally optimistic feeling as to trade prospects for the New Year.

Cotton futures opened firm. Jan. 26:58; March 26:90; May 26:95; July 26:44; Oct. 24:85.

END TO NEW YORK FIRE HORSES

Last Animals to Fire Engines Give Way to Motor Trucks. The clatter of steel-shod hoofs, beating out an accompaniment of the shrill screams of a fire engine siren has resounded in the streets of New York for the last time.

Famberg, Buck and Penrod, last survivors of the picturesque 3-horse teams, answered their last alarm, Polish and sleeked for the occasion, the horses thundered their apparatus last week from the house of Engine Company 105 in Brooklyn to Borough hall, where there was a huge crowd.

Fire Commissioner Drennan made a speech and the crowd turned from admiring Famberg, Buck and Penrod to inspect a shiny motorized contraption that was to replace them. The horses were sent upstate to finish their lives on a farm.

Plan for Municipal Hotel at Beaufort

Beaufort, N. C., Jan. 1.—A movement to build a hotel here from funds derived from a municipal bond issue of \$120,000 is underway and legislation making such a step legal will be introduced at the next general assembly if a petition now being circulated is signed by a majority of Beaufort citizens.

Advocates of the municipal hotel stated that if the movement is successful, a commission will be created to have charge of the building, leasing and general management of the property. The hotel, it said, would be rented to some private interest and a sinking fund started to pay the bonds.

Ambassador Harvey is Holding Conferences

New York, Jan. 1.—Colonel George Harvey, United States ambassador to Great Britain was still engaged late tonight in conference with which he had been occupied much of the time since his arrival from abroad yesterday. The ambassador who was summoned home to report on conditions in Europe to his government, will not leave for Washington until tomorrow, at the earliest, his secretary announced.

Sir Horace Plunkett Comes to Study Agriculture Methods

New York, Jan. 1.—Sir Horace Plunkett, recently nominated to membership in the Irish Free State senate, arrived here today on the steamship Adriatic, commissioned by his government to study agriculture and methods employed by the United States in maintaining the congressional reference library.

Widow of Hiram Knox Held by the Authorities

(By the Associated Press.) Beaumont, Texas, Jan. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—The arrest of Mrs. Hiram Knox, widow of the wealthy lumberman, who was found dead in his bed on the morning of November 20th, a bullet hole through his head in addition to that of Mrs. Lillian Knox, the widow, were expected today.

A multitude of rumors followed the coroner's verdict culminating yesterday in the arrest of Mrs. Knox. She was arrested as she returned to her home in Beaumont after spending the holidays in Beaumont.

Preliminary hearing for Mrs. Knox will be held at Beaumont tomorrow morning before Justice W. H. Pratt. Mr. Knox was one of the wealthiest men in Texas. He inherited an estate worth nearly \$10,000,000 and was noted for his liberality.

Mrs. Knox likewise is generous. Her Christmas-time giving and donations have been annual events in Beaumont and the nearby small town of East Mayfield.

STATES FIELD CROPS FOR 1922 VERY VALUABLE

But Experts Find We Are Not Doing All We Could in Agricultural Way. Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 2.—(By the Associated Press.)—North Carolina holds her high position in the total value of field crops for 1922. With a rank of fourth at \$231,049,000 for the value of the twenty-two most important crops of the United States and fifth in rank of all crops valued at \$342,637,000, North Carolina, with a cultivated area of less than twenty-five others, surpasses forty-three states in the value of crops.

This official announcement was made today by officials of the North Carolina and United States departments of agriculture. In the crop value indicated, livestock, timber and improvement of land are not included. Forecasts that the state would maintain its position before made several weeks ago, but the final figures were not obtained until today.

"Such a high rank is of considerable credit to the Tar Heel state," reads the announcement, "even if most of the credit is due to cotton and tobacco. It should be recalled that the middle western progressive farming states had good crops and better prices for grain than in 1921. That we also improved is evident from the \$80,000,000 increase in crop value over last year, gain of about 25 per cent. 1921 crops showed a decrease of \$90,000,000 from the 1920 value. The 1919 crop valuation was \$363,229,000, when we ranked eleventh in total value."

"The rank of fourth in the value of our twenty-two important crops is, of course, very creditable, but with the advance of the boll weevil damages we will lose an advantage. Then too, our yields per acre of the food and feed crops are distressingly low. If we eliminate the increased usage of commercial fertilizers, one sybide will perhaps not be more than they were ten or twenty years ago. The farming practices in North Carolina offer opportunity for vast improvement."

"If we were to give more consideration to the basic practices of 'feeding the soil,' growing our feed and food, making much more of the livestock products and then make the cash crops net, we would soon be better off economically and would hold a higher rank in farm prosperity."

"In traveling through Pennsylvania on December 29th, the statistician noted quite a contrast in the pleasing pasture lands, the livestock and general indications of neatness and efficiency. With our longer seasons, greater diversity of crops available, freedom from continued winter conditions, the convenience of all year automobile and road travel, there is an reasonable excuse for the present backward conditions in North Carolina."

Auto Driver is Held for the Death of Four People

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 1.—John E. Maurer, said by police to have been the driver of an automobile which crashed into a telephone pole here early yesterday resulting in the death of four men, was arrested today charged with manslaughter. Maurer was slightly injured as a result of the accident, and will be discharged from the hospital in time to be given a preliminary hearing on the charge tomorrow.

The manslaughter charge was preferred against Maurer by Dr. Otto M. Reinhardt, coroner of the southern district and Captain John A. Cooney, of the police department.

Editor Hurley Host at Oyster Roast to Fore

Salisbury, Jan. 1.—An oyster roast—something unusual for this section—was enjoyed at the home of Editor Hurley of the Evening Post, the guests numbering all the members of the paper's force of workmen. The oysters were roasted in the large open fireplace of the basement and were eaten with all the accessories that go with a genuine oyster roast.

Digs Way to Freedom

Logansport, Ind., Jan. 1.—Using two pewter spoons and a pen knife for tools, Vern Perry, 27-year-old of Charleston, W. Va., who was detained on a charge of highway robbery, dug his freedom from the county jail here early today. Other prisoners in the jail sang continuously to cover the noise made by Perry while digging his way out.

It has been estimated that there are about 12,000 small towns in the United States, half of them with populations of 500 or less.

GERMANY'S PROPOSAL

U. S. Officials Did Not Present Plan to France Because They Knew France Would Not Accept It.

OFFICIALS REFUSE TO TALK FURTHER

Make Statement and Then Will Not Talk.—Wanted U. S. to Be Guardian in the Matter.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 2.—The State Department announced today that the German proposal for an agreement under which France, Great Britain, Italy and Germany should "solely agree among themselves and promise the government of the United States" not to resort to war for the period of one generation without the authority of a plebiscite, had not been transmitted to the French government formally by Secretary Hughes as an informal inquiry, brought out the fact that it was not acceptable to France.

The department issued this statement: "The German ambassador on behalf of his government recently submitted to the Secretary of State a proposal to the effect that the powers interested in the Rhine, to-wit: France, Great Britain, Italy and Germany should 'solely agree among themselves and promise the government of the United States' that they would not resort to war against each other for a period of one generation without being authorized to do so by a plebiscite of their own peoples."

"It was deemed inadvisable to transmit the proposal to the governments named unless it appeared that it would be favorably considered by the French government. On making informal inquiry of the French government, the secretary of state was informed that that government could not view the proposal with favor, as such an arrangement could not be made under the provisions of the French constitution."

The announcement was the first word the State Department officials have permitted to escape them in any way in regard to the German proposal. They would add nothing by way of comment today to the statement of fact contained in the announcement. "Disclosure by the Department of the fact that the German proposal would have made the government of the United States the guardian or trustee of the peace pact is the first indication of an official character that the plan thus sought to bring the weight of American influence to bear on the European problem."

There was nothing to indicate whether the Washington administration would have refused to accept such responsibility had the French government found it desirable to enter into the pact. In some quarters there was a disposition to believe, however, that the action of Secretary Hughes sounding out French opinion on the desirability of the plan was at least deeply interested in the proposals.

The full text of the German proposal was not given out here, and officials would not say to what extent the Washington government would have been committed had it been accepted in Paris. Chancellor Cuno in his Hamburg speech which first disclosed the peace pact plan, however, indicated that the power acting as trustee of the promises of the signatories, and presumably would not be required to take any steps for enforcement of the agreement.

The reluctance of American officials on the plan up to this time presumably had been due to the peculiar situation in which the government found itself in dealing with a proposal which required even passive participation by this government in the tangled affairs of Europe.

Will Help Veterans to Find Jobs

Greensboro, N. C., Jan. 2.—H. C. Caldwell, first vice-president of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, has offered to assist in the finding of employment for veterans of the World War, according to an announcement tonight by R. E. Denny, department adjutant.

"Through answer to a questionnaire circulated through the state by the Americanism commission of the legion," said the adjutant, "it has been determined that the only labor shortage is among the unskilled. The offer of the federation of labor to co-operate with us in relieving the unemployment situation will help to reduce this shortage."

Now that aluminum has become available in any desired quantity, its use in electrical installations, especially for long-distance conductors of electric power, is rapidly increasing. For equal conductivity only half the weight of aluminum is required that would be required if copper were used.

Edmonton, Alberta, owns its utilities and a paving plant. It is now planning to obtain leases of tar sands deposits at McMurray and prepare its own road materials.

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Funds to pay for War Savings Stamps will not be available until January 5th, 1923.

JNO. L. MILLER, Postmaster.