

SELECTION OF JURY BEING MADE NOW IN THE THOMAS TRIAL

Case Was Called Early Today in Rowan County Superior Court.—Jury Will Come From Special Venire

MUCH INTEREST IN THE TRIAL

Large Number of Witnesses From This City and Kannapolis Were on Hand for Opening of Court.

O. G. (Red) Thomas, Charlotte auto salesman, is again in trial for the fatal shooting of Arthur J. Allen, of this city, in Kannapolis on the night of October 25, 1921. The second trial of Thomas got underway in Salisbury this morning in Rowan County Superior Court, and the case was given precedence over everything on the criminal docket in that court.

Judge James L. Webb, of Shelby, is presiding at the trial. At the first trial Judge J. B. Ray presided. There has been a big change in the personnel of Thomas' counsel since the first trial, also. Only one Concord lawyer is taking an active part in the defense now, that being T. D. Maness, while at the former trial Mr. Maness was assisted by Frank Armfield, M. B. Sherrin, J. Lee Crowell and John M. Oglesby of this city. Other lawyers appearing for the defendant now are Linn and Linn, R. Lee Wright and P. S. Carlton, all of Salisbury, and E. T. Casler and John J. Parker, of Charlotte, who took part in the first trial, also.

The personnel of the State's counsel has not undergone such a radical change. H. S. Williams and L. T. Hartsell will again appear in the case as will L. C. Caldwell, of Statesville, and Hayden Clement, of Salisbury. The latter was solicitor at the first trial. Zebulon Long, of Statesville, will represent the State as solicitor at the present trial.

More interest than expected is being shown in the case, according to reports from Salisbury today. When the case was called this morning, only thirty reports, the court room was packed, and the case is being discussed very freely in that city. It is generally believed in Salisbury that Thomas will get an impartial trial in that city, judging from comments made by Salisbury people.

About forty people from this city and Kannapolis went to Salisbury this morning, having been summoned as witnesses. Some of them expect to complete their testimony in the early stages of the trial, while others believe they will have to remain in Salisbury for several days.

The entire session of court this morning was taken up with the selection of jurors, which are to be chosen from a special venire of 100, picked Monday afternoon.

It is believed the trial will not be completed under a week's time.

Five Jurors Chosen. Salisbury, Feb. 14.—Selection of a jury to try O. G. (Red) Thomas, Charlotte auto salesman, charged with having killed Arthur J. Allen last year in Kannapolis, was begun in Superior Court here today and five jurors had been chosen by noon. The case was brought here on a change of venue after Thomas had been convicted once and granted a new trial.

Mrs. Robert Lowe, who testified at Thomas' first trial when he was sentenced to 18 years in the state penitentiary, is seriously ill in Nashville, Tenn. It was said by attorneys for the State. The prosecution claims she was riding in an automobile with Thomas on the night of the killing, and the defense asked each venireman if the fact that a married woman had been riding with a married man would influence their verdict.

COTTON INDUSTRY IN JANUARY MADE HIGH RECORD FOR COUNTRY

Industry During Last Month Showed Greatest Activity in Its History, According to Late Statistics.

ACTIVE SPINDLES WERE 35,240,853

Cotton Consumed During the Month Totalled 610,375, an Amount Exceeded Only Twice in History.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Cotton manufacturing showed greater activity during January than at any time in the history of the industry. The number of cotton spindles active during the month passed the 35,000,000 mark, for the first time, the Census Bureau's monthly report issued today, showing the number to have been 35,240,853.

Consumption of cotton during January totalled 610,375 bales which has been exceeded only twice, in March 1916 and in May 1917.

The growth of the cotton spinning industry in cotton growing states is largely responsible for the increased activity. In January cotton growing states consumed more cotton than in any other month in their history, and the number of active spindles was larger than ever before.

Cotton Consumed During January. Washington, Feb. 14.—Cotton consumed during January amounted to 610,375 bales of lint and 49,894 of linters, compared with 577,945 of lint and 49,078 of linters in December; and 520,698 of lint and 43,025 of linters in January last year, the Census Bureau announced today.

WOULD MIZZLE PAPERS Ficklin Would Prohibit Publication of Execution Stories

Raleigh, Feb. 13.—E. B. Ficklin, of Greenville, member of the state prison board, made public tonight a bill to be introduced in the legislature tomorrow, prohibiting publication of execution stories in newspapers.

Mr. Ficklin announced some weeks ago his intention to have this bill introduced, declaring that the elaborate and, in many instances, harrowing accounts of electrocutions were creating an unjustified sentiment against capital punishment.

Display before the public of the gruesomeness of electrocutions has become so elaborate during the last few years as to cause alarm in official circles and among persons who recognized the necessity for the penalty. Much of the descriptive writing about electrocutions has been in keeping with the confessed efforts of some news writers to create a sentiment in favor of abolishing capital punishment by painting harrowing pictures of executions.

As a matter of fact, there is nothing in an electrocution that is more gruesome or harrowing than any death scene. Pen pictures of death on the sick bed can be, and have been, painted with as pathetic effect and horrifying reaction as those of electrocutions. Electrocutations at the state prison, at least in the experience of this correspondent, have been carried out with a serious matter-of-factness in keeping with the judgment of the courts. Any scene of death affords material for the greatest of dramatic effect, however, and the scenes at the state prison have been worked excessively.

THE COTTON MARKET Opening Decline in Response to Lower Cables From Liverpool.

New York, Feb. 14.—An opening decline of 5 to 10 points in the cotton market today was in response to lower Liverpool cables and overnight selling orders which appeared to come from the South, New Orleans and Wall Street sources. There was a good deal of buying on the bullish report of the Census Bureau on domestic consumption for the month of January, however, and prices firmed up right after the call with May advancing from 28.13 to 28.33, and with the general list soon showing net gains of 5 to 11 points.

Cotton futures opened steady: March 27.87; May 28.13; July 27.65; October 25.20; December, unquoted.

Thirty-Seven Schools Close in Buncombe County. Asheville, N. C., Feb. 14.—Thirty-seven six-month term schools have closed their annual session to open again in August. The remaining 39 long term schools will continue until the seven, eight and nine months terms have been completed.

Search of Jones Grave Will Be Made at Once

United States government was seeking the gems in America since early last month when Wm. B. Williams, special agent of the treasury department, admitted he was investigating a report that \$100,000 worth were buried in the Brooklyn cemetery.

Cheaper Gas For City is Promised After March 1st

Concord & Kannapolis Gas Company Announces Voluntary Reduction of 10 Cents Per 1,000 Cubic Feet.—Further Reductions May Be Made at Later Dates.

Cheaper gas for Concord is assured by the announcement made today by the Concord & Kannapolis Gas Company that beginning March first it will reduce its rate in Concord and Kannapolis 10 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

RAW SUGAR MARKET BREAK 100 POINTS

After Advances of 28 to 72 Points at Opening, Market Broke 100 Points, the Maximum Allowed.

New York, Feb. 14.—After advances of 28 to 72 points at the opening of the raw sugar futures market today, prices broke 100 points, the maximum fluctuation allowed in one day's trading, by the exchange.

METHODIST PROTESTANTS WILL COMPLETE COLLEGE Campaign For Funds in Interest of High Point Institution Has Been Authorized.

High Point, Feb. 13.—Meeting here today, trustees of the North Carolina Methodist Protestant college laid plans looking towards the completion of the college administration building and the erection of two dormitories in the immediate future so that the institution might open its doors at the earliest possible time.

INVESTIGATION STARTS Federal Coal Commission Starts Investigation Concerning Civic Rights of Mine Workers.

Washington, Feb. 14.—An investigation to determine whether civic rights of American citizens have been abridged or denied during labor controversies in the coal industry, and whether breaches of civil or criminal law have been involved, with a purpose of fixing responsibility was begun today by the Federal coal commission.

Debt Funding Bill Gets Consideration in Senate

Washington, Feb. 14.—An agreement between Senate republican and democratic leaders on the British debt funding bill reported to have been reached informally today, would strike out the House provision authorizing the President to approve similar settlement with other debtor nations.

ALLIED SHIPS STILL FLOATING IN WATER OF SMYRNA HARBORS

"Bluffs" Made by Turks Are Playing Out With Allies, Who Will Not Comply With Ultimatum.

ALLIED ANSWER SENT TO TURKS

Who Have Not Sent a Reply to It.—Believed the Terms of Lausanne Treaty Will Be Accepted.

Paris, Feb. 14.—(By the Associated Press).—The representative of the Anglo government at Smyrna has not yet delivered the reported ultimatum for the withdrawal of the warships there to the allied chiefs.

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ANOTHER CATHOLIC CHURCH DESTROYED

Church Recently Purchased by Syrian Catholics in Canada Destroyed by Fire.

Montreal, Feb. 14.—Trinity Church, the oldest Anglican church in Canada, which recently passed into the hands of Syrian Catholics, was destroyed by fire early today.

Private Detectives Guard Home of Harold McCormick.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—Guarded by a score of private detectives, Harold F. McCormick, head of the executive committee of the International Harvester company, and his Paris bride, Ganna Walska Puczk, Polish prima donna, who were re-married today to comply with the Illinois divorce laws, remained in seclusion tonight at the estate of Mr. McCormick's mother in Lake Forest.

Five Community Fairs in Mecklenburg This Year.

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 14.—Five communities—Sharon, Dixie, Steel Creek, Huntersville and Black Creek—have voted to hold fairs during the fall of 1923. This step was taken in line with the rehabilitation of the Mecklenburg Community Fair Association.

What the Mail Carrier Does.

In every single hour of the 24, there are mailed in the United States, 1,400,000 letters. To carry this great volume of mail during the last fiscal year there was sold 14,000,000 postage stamps, 57,000,000 special delivery stamps, 38,000,000 newspaper wrappers, and over 1,000,000,000 postal cards.

Will Investigate the Death of J. J. Wilkes

Raleigh Police Believe Fatal Wound May Not Have Been Self-Inflicted. (By the Associated Press.)

Raleigh, Feb. 14.—A coroner's inquest into the death of J. J. Wilkes, of Atlanta, Ga., traveling salesman who died in a local hospital today from wounds about the will be held this afternoon.

House Votes to Continue Special Committee Making Check Now of Financial Standing of State.

PLAN TO GET REPORT LATER

Auditors Think It Will Be April First, Perhaps, Before They Have Completed Their Examination.

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 14.—(By the Associated Press).—All rumors relative to an expected recess of the General Assembly were laid to rest today when Speaker Dawson of the House, introduced a resolution providing that the special finance committee be continued in force and report back to the Governor and council of state after the special committee reported that the audit ordered by the committee would not be ready before April 1.

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NEGRO KILLS WHITE MAN NEAR LUMBERTON

Metco Horn, Father of Six Children, Murdered by Brack Prude, Who Escapes.

Lumberton, Feb. 13.—Brack Prude, negro, shot and instantly killed Metco Horn, white man, at Horn's home about seven miles north of here, at 7 o'clock this morning. Two shots were fired by the negro, both taking effect.

RUCKER IS KILLED AND MISS CUYLER INJURED

Automobile Turns Over on Them—Miss Cuyler's Back is Broken.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 13.—A buried windshield and a wet roadway were said by police tonight to have been responsible for the automobile accident in which Benjamin S. Rucker, member of a local tobacco firm, was killed and Miss Grace Barton Cuyler, prominent New York society girl, was seriously injured late last night, when the car in which they were riding overturned in a western suburb.

Macon Police Shoot at Reflections and Ruin Plate Mirrors.

Macon, Ga., Feb. 13.—Dannenburg department store officials late today after what they termed a "careful investigation" declared that a police officer who entered their establishment Sunday night in search of burglars, engaged in a gun battle between themselves and their reflections in the big mirrors in the store. Officials further declared that there were no burglars in the store at the time.

Large Tobacco Sales Reported.

Winston-Salem, Feb. 14.—A total of 31,477,896 pounds of leaf tobacco has been sold in the local market since the season opened last September, officials have announced. The tobacco has brought growers \$8,447,598.71 in cash. The average for the season is \$26.83 per hundred pounds.

Fair at Greensboro in October.

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 14.—The Central Carolina fair will be held in Greensboro the second week in October this year, according to an agreement reached by the directors.

Will Not Pay Fine.

Berlin, Feb. 13.—(By the Associated Press).—The municipality of Gommersheim, according to advice received here, has declined to pay the fine of 100,000 marks demanded by the French government for the sale of German goods to Russia.

Piedmont Theatre TODAY AND TOMORROW Roy Stewart "A Motion to Adjourn" From the Saturday Evening Post Story by Peter B. Kyne. Also a Rofin Comedy "Soak the Shiek"