

# THE COURIER.

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## POLL TAX QUESTION.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS TAX FOR 1902 MUST BE PAID.

The Law Interpreted to Apply to the Poll Tax for 1902. So Far as the 1903 Elections are Concerned.

The opinion of the Attorney General has been requested with reference to the poll tax required to be paid by a voter before he is eligible to vote in the coming municipal elections. The following extracts are taken from it:

"Section 4, article 6 of the Constitution declares that before any elector shall be entitled to vote, he shall have paid on or before the first day of May of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax for the previous year, as prescribed by article 5, section 1 of the Constitution."

"The question submitted is, does this provision relate to the poll tax of 1902 or to that of 1901? The answer depends upon the meaning of the expression 'the previous year' as used in the Constitution."

"All taxes due on the first Monday in September in each year. The law requires the sheriff or other accounting officer to settle the State taxes on or before the second Monday in January in each year."

"The foregoing references to the statutes are made for the purpose showing that the poll tax for the year previous to 1903 became due on the first day of September, 1902, and is supposed to be collected or returned on the insolvent list in time for the sheriff or other accounting officer to make his settlement with State authorities on or before the second Monday in January, 1903."

"The general law governing the payment of poll tax obtains in municipal elections, and elections conducted in municipalities should conform to the provisions of the Constitution."

The opinion then refers to some decision of the Supreme court of Missouri holding that certain special elections for the purpose of local taxation should be conducted in accordance with the general Australian ballot system which prevailed in that State, and concludes as follows:

"The same provisions of law, therefore relating to the payment of poll tax for general elections will apply to municipal elections, and I am of the opinion that an elector in order to be permitted to vote in such elections must have paid his poll tax for the year 1902 on or before the first day of May of that year."

It is understood that the question was submitted by parties residing in Asheville, Shelby and Hickory. —News and Observer.

### Scaffold Falls—Two Men Hurt.

Durham, N. C., April 18.—A scaffold fell with four workmen at Lakewood Park this afternoon and two men were seriously hurt. On the scaffold were four men, W. A. Wilkerson, John Gilbert, James Christain and E. W. Gunter. The first two were seriously hurt by being thrown on their backs and the other two escaped without any serious injury. The men fell about fifteen feet, going down with the scaffold, which pulled loose from the building.

## TAYLOR DIRECTED THE DEED.

### SO DECLARES YOUTSEY ON THE WITNESS STAND.

We Feared No Punishment, Says Youtsey, for We Knew we had the Governor and the Pardoning Power Behind Us.

Frankfort, Ky., April 20.—Henry E. Youtsey today for the first time told on the witness stand his story of the killing of the late Governor Goebel. He named Jas. Howard, the defendant, as the man who fired the shot. Youtsey said he saw Howard for the first time a few minutes before the shooting. Howard had a letter sent him several days before by the witness at Governor Taylor's dictation. Youtsey says he took Howard into the office of Caleb Powers, the Secretary of State, which had been especially arranged for the shooting. He showed Howard the Martin rifle, the bullets and the window from which the shooting was to be done. He says Howard asked what he was to get for doing the shooting.

"What do you want for it?" Youtsey said he asked, and that Howard said he wanted a pardon for killing George Baker.

"I told him he could have that and more too," said Youtsey. "About that time," said the witness, "Goebel came in the gate and I pointed him out to Howard and then ran from the room. As I disappeared down the steps to the basement, I heard the crack of Howard's rifle."

Youtsey said that after the shooting he passed through the State House basement and a few minutes later came back into the executive building from the east side entrance.

"I stayed in the office of the Assistant Secretary of State," said he "for a few moments and saw Matthews break into Caleb Powers' office and find the guns that had been left in there."

Youtsey said that at the time of the shooting he was private secretary to Auditor Sweeney, but that while his political status was not definitely fixed, it was understood he was to have a good place under Taylor. "Governor Taylor," said Youtsey, "directed everything we did. We knew we had the Governor and the pardoning power behind us and we were not afraid of punishment for killing Goebel."

Youtsey on cross-examination, said that after he was arrested and later sent to the penitentiary he still had hope of gaining his liberty. He thought Yrkes was defeated, however, and about a year ago he decided to talk and did tell his story to prison physician Tobin.

Youtsey said further that he had an additional incentive to tell the story, as Taylor, Powers and others had used him as a catspaw and scapegoat and then deserted him when he got into trouble.

The editor of the Greenville Reflector noting the fact that one of our preachers has found "conditions such as to render Asheville the most corrupt city of its size he has ever known," makes this eminently sensible and pertinent comment: "Any one else who will look for evil in any city will find the same thing." Asheville Citizen.

## ROBISON AS A PEACEMAKER.

The National Committeeman Settles the Contest for the Hillsboro postoffice in Favor of Chas. G. Rosemond.

Durham, April 18.—The Hillsboro postoffice squabble was settled here this afternoon by ex-Judge W. S. O. B. Robinson, national committeeman. He decided that Charles G. Roseman was entitled to the office and his recommendation will carry, as Judge Robinson was appointed to settle the matter. There were four applications for the office, all of whom were present at the meeting held at Durham, N. C. These were D. A. Rosemond, Chas. R. Rosemond, his nephew, Deyereaux Turner, and Chester D. Turner, brothers. Accompanying the applicants were T. F. Lloyd and W. E. Lindsay, of Chapel Hill. "Trot in your claims," said Judge Robinson when the party of office-seekers began to enter the parlor of the Carr-olina. In a few minutes he convinced three of the applicants that the younger of the two Rosemonds, Charles G., was entitled to succeed J. Clyde Cheek as postmaster at Hillsboro. They all accepted the decision and went away seemingly happy. "Oil has been poured on the troubled waters," said Judge Robinson "and everything is now safe and settled."

## The Corporation Commission Instructing Assessors.

The members of the Corporation Commission met yesterday morning in the Court House with the list takers and conferred with them in regard to the duties imposed upon them by the law.

Of the total of 63 appointees for the entire county, forty were present yesterday morning besides all the county officers and Mr. J. D. Allen, of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Corporation Commission took up the Machinery act and showed what property was to be assessed by the county assessors, how the valuation was to be assessed and how the valuation was to be arrived at, by determining the true cash value of the property that is, what it would bring in a private sale under normal conditions. It was shown what property the State Auditor shall assess, and what the Corporation Commission itself. The lines were clearly drawn defining the exact duties of the tax-listers and assessors.

Every county in the State will be visited by at least one member of the Corporation Commission between now and the first of July and the whole matter gone over as it was yesterday with the list takers and assessors of the several counties. — News and Observer.

### Big Blaze in Cotton.

Reidsville, N. C., April 18.—The out-house of the Lilly Mill at Spray containing 250 bales of cotton were destroyed by fire at nine o'clock today. Loss \$12,000.

Later—The fire in the storage sheds is supposed to have caught from the sparks of a passing engine. A later estimate of the loss places it at between \$8,000 and \$9,000. This is covered by insurance. The fire was extinguished before the cotton was entirely consumed, but two hundred or more bales were badly damaged.

## SET FOR THURSDAY.

### GATTIS-KILGO SUIT AT OXFORD THIS WEEK

Judge W. R. Allen Presiding—Fourth Time in Granville Court—Three Times in Supreme Court.

Oxford, N. C., April 20.—The Gattis-Kilgo case has been set for trial here on Thursday of this week.

This famous suit for slander brought by Rev. T. J. Gattis, of Oxford, against Rev. John C. Kilgo, president of Trinity College, Durham, has been tried before a jury twice before this, and has been in the Supreme Court three times. This will be actually the fourth time it will have been in the Granville county court.

Here is a brief history of the litigation in the widely known suit:

This case first came up in the Granville county court at the April term, 1899, and the judge sustained the defendant's demurrer. The plaintiff appealed and at the fall term, 1899, the Supreme Court reversed that action and sent the case back for trial before a jury.

At the November term, 1900, the case came up for trial before a jury in the Granville court and the plaintiff obtained a verdict of \$20,000.

The defendant appealed this time, and at the spring term, 1901, the Supreme Court granted a new trial.

Then the case again came before a jury at the November term of court, 1901, and Mr. Gattis obtained a verdict of \$15,000. The defendant again appealed.

At the spring term, 1902, the Supreme Court carried the case over till the fall term without deciding it. At the fall term, 1902 a new trial was granted by the Supreme Court, and the case now comes up before a jury this week for the third time.

Judge W. R. Allen, of Goldsboro, will be the presiding judge.

The counsel in the case are: For the plaintiff Mr. Gattis Messrs. Boone, Bryant & Brigg, of Durham; Maj. W. A. Guthrie, of Durham; Judge A. W. Graham, of Oxford; Hon. S. M. Gattis, of Hillsboro; Hon. C. B. Watson, of Winston-Salem, and Senator A. A. Hicks, of Oxford.


For the defendant President Kilgo: Messrs. Winston & Fuller, of Durham; Royster & Hobgood, of Oxford, and T. T. Hicks, of Henderson.

The best physic: Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Easy to take; pleasant in effect. For sale by W. R. Hambrick.

## The Dress Goods Store.

Fashionable goods are what you find here. The stock has been gathered with a view of meeting every want. From the lowest fabrics, that are worthy, to as handsome as you wish, our stock is complete. Our store is the home of low prices. Mrs. W. A. Winstead is in our dress goods department and will take pleasure in assisting you in selecting materials and trimmings. We take pleasure in showing goods whether you buy or not.

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