

TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

One Goes Free.

Raleigh, Special.—One pardon was granted by Governor Glenn, this to Drewry Streeter of Richmond county, who gets his pardon only because further confinement means death by consumption.

John Springs, of Gaston county and Dolly Cline of Swain county are refused pardons. The woman's sentence if six months begins October 1st, and she was sentenced for the illegal sale of whiskey the Governor stating that it appears from the record that she is not a good woman.

The following is the notice given out as to the reasons for granting the one pardon and refusing the two:

Two Pardons Refused.

John Springs—Defendant was convicted Sept. term, 1906, Superior Court of Lincoln county of manslaughter and sentenced to two years on the chain gang of Gaston county. He had a fair trial and sentence of two years for taking human life in my judgment was light enough. There being no new testimony and no recommendation of the judge for clemency, the application is refused.

Dolly Cline—Defendant was convicted July, Swain Superior Court of retailing and sentenced to take effect the first October. It appears from the record that she was not a good woman and the judge evidently intended by holding up capias to make her leave the State, else serve six months in the county jail. A bad woman who is a retailer is a nuisance to any community, and I approve the sentence of the court and cannot see my way clear to grant application.

The Pardon Granted.

Drewry Streeter—Defendant was convicted April term, 1907, of assault with deadly weapon and sentenced to twelve months on the public roads of Richmond county. It was a serious assault and the defendant ought not to be pardoned except for the fact that since his confinement he has developed consumption and two reputable physicians certify that he will die if confined or kept on chain gang and in any event is doomed to early death. Pardon is therefore granted for this reason and not on account of feeling that punishment is excessive.

Called Out and Shot Dead.

Wilmington, Special.—W. Banks Rothwell, 55 or 60 years of age, a well-to-do colored man living on the place of Owen Martindale, five miles below the city, was called out of his house Friday morning about 4 o'clock by three white men and shot to death when he attempted to run from two of the number, who took hold of him. The ball entered the back and pierced the lungs. Rothwell, who was in his bare feet, circled when he was shot, ran back into his house and dropped dead. The men ran, but later Constable Savage and others tracked the party with the county bloodhounds to a point near the city and a clue was obtained by which arrests are expected to follow the coroner's inquest.

No True Bill Found.

Wilmington, Special.—The grand jury in the Superior Court here has failed to find a true bill against Gaston M. Murrell, a local grocer, charged with setting fire to his store at Fifth and Campbell streets just before day about four weeks ago, it having been alleged that this was for the purpose of collecting the insurance upon a depleted stock. The case was worked up by Deputy State Insurance Commissioner Scott, but the evidence would not hold water under the critical examination of the grand jury, and Mr. Murrell was discharged from a \$500 bond required of him.

Bloodhounds For Spencer.

Spencer, Special.—Deputy Sheriff R. P. Horsett, of Spencer, has just received two fine bloodhounds from a well-known kennel in Philadelphia, which he proposes to use in running down criminals in this section. The dogs are thoroughbred and are said to be among the best in this country. It is believed the use of bloodhounds will be valuable in catching car robbers and other law-breakers here.

Bills For Manslaughter.

Raleigh, Special.—The grand jury in the Superior Court here returned a true bill against Engineer W. W. Rippey, Conductor C. H. Oakley, Chief Train Dispatcher B. P. Ketchum and his assistant, Victor Davis all of the Southern Railway for manslaughter for killing Engineer W. C. Parker and Fireman Robert Young and W. J. Bethel in the railway collision near Auburn, this county. State Treasurer B. R. Laey, J. D. Robertson, J. M. Barrett and B. Y. Ferrell were the witnesses examined.

Explanation Wanted.

The Washington correspondent of the Charlotte Observer writes that paper as follows:

"The attorneys for the state in the North Carolina rate case have determined to summon as a witness Col. A. B. Andrews first vice president of the Southern Railway. He will be asked to explain the payment of \$2,000 to The Raleigh Evening Times and \$14,000 to John C. Drewry, president of the Visitor-Press Publishing Company as disclosed in vouchers of the Southern which have put in evidence. There is still another matter that the North Carolina lawyers want the Southern vice president to explain. This was the expenditure of \$3,000 last year in a lump sum, the object of which was not disclosed in the voucher that was placed in evidence. The voucher read, 'Expended under the direction of the first vice president.' The State's attorneys attach much importance to vouchers in favor of J. P. Morgan & Co., the Wall Street firm, aggregating \$45,000. The vouchers showing this expenditure which was for the past two years were offered in evidence just before the hearing here was adjourned. The expenditures purported to be for postage stationery and commissions or disbursements of interest. The States attorneys claim that any reputable banking firm would gladly have encountered expense to do the Southern Railway's banking and that the \$45,000 expenditures disclosed in the vouchers is practically a gift to Morgan & Co."

Reports Much Exaggerated.

Spencer, Special.—Notwithstanding the adverse railroad legislation and other untoward effects upon the railroad world Lane Bros. Company, contractors of Lynchburg, Va., have big contracts for the delivery of stone ballast on the main line of the Southern north of Spencer. The stone is being taken in large quantities from a quarry two miles from this place and is being shipped daily to points on the double-tracking of the road. Many wild and misleading rumors have gained circulation concerning the cut of the force of men employed by the Southern Railway at Spencer during the past ten days one to the effect that only 500 remain in the service. As a matter of fact more than 1,600 names are still on the pay roll of the shop men alone. An equal number of men are employed on the road, yard and track forces of the company. About 250 men have been temporarily suspended from the service here and the curtailment is hardly noticeable.

Charles Bostian a Free Man.

Newton, Special.—There was great relief and much rejoicing when word came from Mr. Charles Bostian's lawyers at Taylorville that the case had been not pressed on account of lack of evidence and Mr. Bostian was a free man again and on his way to his home and family. It will be recalled to newspaper readers that some six or eight months ago Mr. C. L. Bostian was lodged in the Newton jail to await trial for the alleged murder of John Childers of Taylorville who was found dead in a hog pasture near his home nearly 18 years ago. Mr. W. C. Feinster was engaged at once to defend Mr. Bostian and has not failed ever since to declare the man's innocence. At the court house the case was not even called. Sufficient evidence was lacking to make out a bill against the man, and thus it is after all these days and months of horror and suspense in the county jail Mr. Bostian is at home in the bosom of his family.

A New Enterprise.

A charter is granted the Byrd-Manufacturing company at Durham to do iron and wood work of a general and special character and to manufacture certain patented articles, the capital stock being \$125,000, B. E. Byrd being the chief stockholder.

Engineer Painfully Hurt.

Salisbury, Special.—Engineer H. H. Sullivan, who is running for Capt. C. L. Welch, of this city, received painful injuries in a wreck at Greenville. He was pulling passenger train No. 35 which ran late and was having trouble on the mountains, and the crew had sent for the helper from Old Fort. While the men were hitching it to 35, a freight train dashed into the rear of the passenger and knocked the engine against the engineer, breaking two ribs and, it is feared, making internal injuries. Several of the crew and passengers were hurt, but none dangerously.

A DASTARDLY DEED

Attempt Made to Wreck a Passenger Train.

Charlotte, Special.—A timely discovery prevented what might have resulted in a disastrous wreck Sunday night about 9 o'clock, a freight train crew on the Southern finding that the switch at the junction had been tampered with, the plates broken and bolts badly disconnected. The freight crew had gone down the main line to clear the track for passenger train No. 35, southbound, meaning to push their train on the siding when they made the discovery and saw three men running at full speed away from the scene. The passenger train was then due, but a runner was sent up the track far enough to stop the fast train that was pulling close to the peril.

Negro Shoots His Sweetheart.

Greensboro, Special.—Sunday night in "Frogtown," one of the negro suburbs of the city, Ralph Tucky, a negro dishwasher in the Hotel Huffine, shot five times at a negro woman by the name of Minnie Crushaw, one of the bullets entering her left breast and the other the muscle of her arm, the former inflicting a wound which may result fatally. She was removed to the hospital and a message from there stated that she was doing as well as could be expected, though her condition was very serious. The two negroes were sweethearts, but recently had a falling out. Luckey went around last night to have a reckoning with his fiancee, but when she would come out no further than the door and would not allow her suitor to come in or to speak to her, Luckey whipped out his pistol and began firing as stated above. The woman was hit while standing in the door but she at once started to run around the house, Luckey firing at her as she retreated. Luckey ran at once and has not been heard of since, though the police officers are trying hard to locate him.

Woman Stabbed by Her Husband.

Salisbury, Special.—Henry Anderson spent the day in jail Sunday and his wife hovered about the gates of death, resulting from a stab she received from Anderson about midnight Saturday night. Anderson is a machinist and spends his time everywhere. He came here several days ago from Columbia, S. C., saying then he was in search of his wife who had left him. Though strongly of the belief that she had treated him badly he said he was going to take her back with him. What occurred Saturday night to provoke the assault does not appear. Anderson says he was crazed by morphine and stabbed his wife with a butcher knife and the wound was a most vicious one. He will remain in jail until there is a change for the better. The prisoner is minus a hand which he lost in an accident in the Columbia shops. He figured in a fight here in the spring which almost laid him out.

Tries to End Life.

Charlotte, Special.—Mr. W. N. Mullen, well known in the city and throughout the county, made an attempt to end his life about 4 o'clock Monday by stabbing himself with a large carving knife. Arising at this hour he awakened his wife telling her that he was going downstairs. Suspecting that he was going to make such an attempt Mrs. Mullen followed him within a few minutes but by the time she reached the sitting room her husband was lying on the floor with the blood flowing from a wound near his heart. Other members of the family were notified and Mr. Mullen was hastily taken to the Presbyterian Hospital where he remains in fair condition. The attending physicians hold out the hope that he will survive the wound which he inflicted. Fortunately the knife stopped before it reached the heart.

Storm Seriously Damages Cotton.

Charlotte, Special.—Farmers in the city Sunday report great damage to cotton by the storm which passed over this section Sunday night as a reminder that the equinox was at hand. They say that fully ten per cent of the cotton that was open in the bolls has been torn from the stalk and strewn along the ground. Aside from this, which represents the greatest amount of the damage wrought the cotton which held out against the strong wind is badly stained and therefore depreciated in value. Corn was blown down, but the damage to this crop is comparable with that which cotton sustained. This comes as a heavy loss to the farmers largely in view of the fact that at least half of the cotton was open in many sections. The storm and rain seem to have been general beginning shortly after dark Sunday night and continuing until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

A BUSINESS MOVE WAS TRAGIC SCENE

President Finley Explains Why Expenses Are Being Cut

NOT AS RETALIATORY MEASURE

President Finley Issues Official Statement Regarding Recent Reduction of Shop Forces at Several Points.

Washington, Special.—In reply to many inquiries and with a view to correcting much misapprehension and some misrepresentation, the following authoritative statement has been made by President Finley, of the Southern Railway Company, as to the reasons for recent stoppages of construction work and reductions in shop forces.

"The urgent need of increased and improved transportation facilities in the Southern States is thoroughly appreciated by the management of the Southern Railway Company. I shall continue to be the policy of the company in the future, as it has been in the past to provide improved facilities as rapidly as its resources will permit.

In some quarters it has been represented that work has been stopped and forces reduced as a measure of retaliation against adverse State legislation. In no case has this been true. This company has not been governed, in any case, by any but sound business considerations, such as must govern a railway as well as every other business enterprise. Current railway income is insufficient to provide funds necessary for extensive improvements and betterments. These can only be provided for now as in the past, by obtaining new capital. Present financial conditions and the present attitude of investors toward railway securities are such that it is impossible, for the moment, to sell railway securities on a basis that any business concern, managed in accordance with sound business principles, would be justified in accepting. It has, therefore been necessary to postpone many important projects for improvements. Only those will be pushed to completion at this time which work has progressed so far that the public and the railway can receive the benefit of their completion at an early date. Other projects have not been abandoned, but will be carried out just as soon as conditions are such that the necessary capital can be secured.

"The reductions in shop force and reductions in the expense of administration wherever it has been proper to make them have, in every instance, been made in conformity with sound business principles. During the past nine months the shops of the company have been running with full forces, and substantial progress has been made in repairing the equipment of the company and putting it in condition for the heavier traffic of the fall and winter. This has been done at great expense, as a result of increases in wages and in the prices of materials used in the shops and the shop rolls, in the aggregate, after this reduction, are now in excess of what they were at this time last year. Prudent business policy has dictated a reduction in shop expenses, so far as it could be made without permitting the equipment of the company to deteriorate. In no case has a reduction been made in a spirit of retaliation, but forces have been reduced and expenses curtailed, in the same ratio, in those States in which there has been no adverse legislative action as in others."

Mayor Resigns.

Charlotte, N. C., Special.—Mayor S. S. McNinch, of this city, has tendered his resignation to the board of aldermen to take effect at once. Private business is assigned as the reason for this step. He was very popular.

Louisiana Bank's Money Missing; Cashier Gone Too.

Baton Rouge, La., Special.—Oscar Kondert, formerly cashier of the First National Bank here, is missing while United States officers are searching for him with a warrant charging him with a defalcation of \$60,000. It is alleged that the shortage was discovered over a month ago, but Kondert and his friends made good the greater part of the loss. The bank officials, it is said, declare themselves satisfied, but the Federal officers decided to prosecute the case.

Mother of Murdered Girl Creates a Scene in Court

AN ACCUSING FINGER AT HALE

Dramatic Climax in Bristol Court-Room When Mrs. Davis, Mother of the Young Woman Ack Hale is Accused of Murdering Denounces Him in Open Court, Branding Him as a Scoundrel and the Murderer of Her Daughter.

Bristol, Va., Special.—The trial of Ack Hale, for the murder of Lillie Davis, his sweetheart, in East Hill Cemetery in this city March 27th, came to a dramatic climax when Mrs. J. W. Davis, mother of the dead girl, as a witness for the prosecution, arose and pointed a finger of scorn at the prisoner who sat pale and wan, shouted:

"You scoundrel, you killed my child and you know you did."

At this she collapsed and was carried from the court room.

The State introduced practically all of its evidence and the first direct testimony for the defense will be introduced Thursday morning. John Bruner, a farmer residing near Bristol, testified that he saw Hale hold the girl and pour whiskey down her throat several times shortly before she was found dying, and that he made a desperate attempt to assault her. He was sustained by a number of witnesses.

Hale was indicted on two charges—criminal assault and murder, and is now being tried on the latter.

There was no eye-witness to the girl's death and for this reason the evidence against Hale is all circumstantial.

Dozens of witnesses told of having seen him abuse and whip the girl shortly before her death and several little children saw him practically force her into the cemetery, where he says she committed suicide with his pistol, while between sobs she plead with him to let her go home.

M. M. Cloyd, who was first to reach the dying girl, stated that she was unconscious when he arrived and made no coherent statement. This came as a blow to the defense, who, it is said, expected his testimony to be more consistent with the suicide theory.

Efforts will be made by the defense to prove the girl impure, but nearly all of their witnesses on this point are admittedly women of ill-repute and the State will seek to impeach the evidence of all of them.

Wreck in French Tunnel.

Paris, By Cable.—The rear coach of second section of the special train carrying 150 first-class passengers from Paris to Cherbourg to embark on the White Star Line steamer Adriatic for New York, was telescoped by the regular Rouen express at the mouth of the Brevet tunnel just beyond Mantes. Strangely no one was killed and according to the latest authentic information, no one was seriously injured. All the passengers in the last coach, however, were badly shaken up and several were injured. A man sustained a fractured leg, and a woman, it is feared, suffered internal injuries. All the injured American passengers, with the exception of one, continued on their way to Cherbourg.

Senator Raynor's Niece Weds.

Washington, Special.—Miss Jennie Rayner Bevan, niece of Senator and Mrs. Isadore Rayner, of Maryland, became the bride of Robert F. Wells, of Washington. The ceremony was performed at the country home of the Rayners in Sudbrook Park, Md.

Negro Masonic Congress.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—A national negro Masonic congress with 14 States and the District of Columbia represented, began here for a session of four days. There was a parade in Norfolk and elaborate opening ceremonies in the negro building on the Jamestown Exposition grounds with W. D. Crum, the negro collector of customs at Charleston, S. C., as the principal speaker. Colorado, Missouri, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Iowa, Texas, Florida, Virginia, Indiana, Georgia, New York and Mississippi are represented.

Florida Day at Fair.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—Florida day was observed at the Jamestown Exposition, several prominent citizens and officials of the State participating in the special exercises. The day was also set apart as Battle Creek and Shenandoah Valley day. Jacksonville and Grand Rapids will have special celebrations.