

State Library

NOT A RECORD

For Low Temperature in March, Yesterday.

Twenty Years for Manslaughter. Seventh District Appeals. Crop and Weather Report for February. Methodist Union Arrivals.

RALPHIGH, March 19.—The temperature this morning was 19.8 degrees. Weather observer, Von Herrman had predicted 20. The weather did not break the March record, but only twice has it been exceeded—March 23, 1888, when it was 16, and March 7, 1899, when it was 19.

Observer Von Herrmann said: "The low temperature has very probably injured some fruit in the central and eastern portions of the State, but it has done no damage in the west, as the trees are not in bloom. I do not think the strawberries are hurt, as they are not yet in bloom."

State Treasurer B. R. Lacy was unable to attend the State Sunday School Convention in progress at Fayetteville. He had been assigned a special topic there.

The sheriff of Swain county today brought Oscar Pearce to the penitentiary to serve 20 years for manslaughter.

The Supreme Court today finished the hearing of arguments in the 7th district appeals, the docket being very light.

A committee composed of bishops Granberry, Duncan and Hargrove, Rev. E. E. Hoss and two other ministers, Judge Walter Clark and two other laymen meets at Baltimore tomorrow, to represent the Methodist Episcopal church South in a conference with similarly chosen representatives of the Northern Methodist church to consider the prospect of a reunion of the two churches.

Four years ago these committees met at Washington and reported progress.

Among today's arrivals were D. T. Oates, Fayetteville; Frank J. O'Donnell, Asheville; Frank Gough, Fayetteville; C. A. Spainhour, Lenoir; H. G. Connor, Jr. Wilson; Charles S. Wallace, Morehead City; J. M. Meekins, Elizabeth City.

The crop and weather report for this State for February was issued today. It says the month was phenomenal. The mean temperature 37.7 degrees, was 7 degrees below the normal for 31 years.

It was the coldest February since 1873, excepting only February 1895, when the mean was 33.1 degrees. The average rainfall 6.05 inches has been exceeded only twice—in 1873 and 1899. There was a heavy snowfall over nearly the entire State, the average depth for the State being 10.4 inches. The depth at Salisbury was 25 inches. There was disastrous floods in the mountain section. Very little work was done. Small grain was largely winter-killed but the roots may have some vitality and make a moderate stand. The snow was beneficial.

Funny-Balloon Believes Right Away and makes a speedy end of coughs and colds.

CHARLOTTE HESITATES

In Matter of Putting up Base Ball Team.

Referees in Bankruptcy Not all the Court. New Watauga Hall. Rebellion Records. Southern Educational Association.

RALPHIGH, March 20.—The building committee of the directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical college met today and decided to place the plans for the new "Watauga Hall" in the hands of Prof. Charles Park, of the faculty, who will superintend the work of construction, which work is to begin at once. As much of it as possible will be done by students. The work will not be let by contract. It may be a month before the plans for the Pullen-Memorial building are adopted.

Thanks to the courtesy of Congressman Klutz, a complete set of the "Rebellion Records" has been secured for the Soldiers' Home. It is a work which the old soldiers read with keen interest.

Among today's arrivals were C. M. Babbitt, New Bern; Guy Tepper, Kinston; C. C. Chadborn and S. H. Chadborn, Wilmington.

The great movement for public education, in which the Southern Educational Association is taking so active a part, is to be fully launched within a fortnight. There will be at least eight "colleges," at commanding points in the State. There is to be financial aid. One of the objects is to get the county superintendents deeply interested. It is for this reason that the Association has decided to pay their railway fare, to secure their attendance.

There is considerable doubt among the base ball league officials here as to Charlotte's coming in with a team. Business men there are not showing up in the matter. If there are not some good developments at this place in a day or two present at Basee of the league will send a missionary there.

Judge Pursell of the federal court rules that releases in bankruptcy cannot select newspapers in which notices are to be published.

THE WILCOX CASE.

Testimony All In. End Expected Today. Nell's Father Testifies. Defence Introduced. No Evidence.

ELIZABETH CITY, March 18.—There was a dense crowd when court first opened today. The prisoner and his sisters were in their seats promptly. The Misses Cropsey did not appear until late. Then the court ordered seats vacated and they sat behind the prosecuting lawyers. Attorney Cropsey of New York sat near them and took notes.

E. V. Davenport said that during the search for Nell's body he saw Jim Wilcox and a young man by the name of Lowery opposite the brick yard. Witness said when the dragging party hooked something in the river he thought Wilcox turned pale.

Harley Meades, who said he was 17 years old and boarded at the Wilcox home and slept with Jim Wilcox, was sworn. Witness said they slept in a back room up stairs, that he retired between 9 and 10 o'clock and did not know anything from then until morning when they came and took Wilcox from the bed.

Caleb T. Parker was called. He said on the night of last November 20 he was at Frog Island. He started towards Elizabeth City. He rode about five miles to Meades' store and stopped. It was about 7 or 8 o'clock. Witness stayed at Meades' about an hour. Witness proceeded and next stopped at Mack Fletcher's place. He saw Mr. Fletcher, John Cartwright and others. He stayed there an hour or more and said when he asked the time, it was about 10 o'clock. He stayed a few minutes more and then proceeded to town. Witness said he met some people, a man and a woman, both about the same height, near the Cropsey gate. He did not recognize either the man or woman.

On cross-examination by Mr. Aydlott, Parker said he had been knowing Jim Wilcox some years. He also met other persons that night, for the road along there is much traveled. He did not see the man's face, nor the woman's.

Charlie Reid said he was a deputy sheriff. Mr. Tom Wilcox sent for him Saturday night after the disappearance. He saw Jim and went out of the house and began talking to Jim about the case and told him if he knew anything he should let it be known. Jim said "I've told all I can tell."

When they got over to Hayman's Hall way they saw Mr. Cropsey. He came in the office where witness and Jim were sitting. Later all three went up to the Cropsey home. Mrs. Cropsey came and sat on the lounge by Jim and putting her hand on his shoulder asked about Nell. Jim told her he did not know; that he left her crying and did not know why she was crying unless it was because he had told her he was going to quit her. He had seen her cry once before. Mr. Cropsey remarked that he did not believe it.

Witness, Jim and others went in the Cropsey porch and Jim showed where the girl stood with her right arm against the porch railing. Wilcox said he had told Nell to go inside several times. Jim had told witness he stayed in the porch ten or fifteen minutes.

On cross-examination, witness said he went with Jim as a friend, that Jim was polite to the family. Jim had made no effort to run away. Witness said as they were leaving the Cropsey home he remarked that Jim could have seen Nell from the road such a bright night. He said Jim replied "I could have seen her and if I had known all this trouble was coming I would have called her sister before I left."

Witness said Wilcox was indifferent about Nell's disappearance, but that may have been a part of his nature. He did not wish to do the prisoner an injustice, he said.

Justice W. H. Cropsey said he was Nell's father. He went up stairs Nov. 20 about half past 8. He came down again at a quarter to 12. He ate a saucer of prunes and two slices of bread. A few minutes later he heard the town clock strike 12. He went to bed again.

At a quarter to 1 witness went down stairs again when his brother Henry called him to get a gun. He saw nothing. His dog seemed scared.

"Then Ollie came down stairs," he continued, "and said Nellie was missing. Everybody was soon excited. I tried to quiet my wife. My brother and I went to the Wilcox house and tapped on the door. Mr. Tom Wilcox answered. I did not see Jim.

"Later Ollie Dawson brought Jim up to the house. Jim said there he gave Nell's picture back. Next morning and for two or three days we hunted for the picture around the yard and along the river front, but no trace was found."

Witness further along said Wilcox stated before the mayor that his mother had walked him that night and he turned over and went to sleep again, for he was a sound sleeper.

Witness said Nell was a graduate of Brooklyn high school. She read quite a number of books. Most were from the Sunday school library. Witness said Nell was of lively disposition, but was timid and afraid to go out alone at night. Nell was a good swimmer.

Judge Wilcox said that during all the trouble Jim Wilcox had offered him no consolation or assistance.

Thomas Hayman, who had worked with Jim on a marine railway, was called. The witness said Wilcox told him the reason he did not help with the search for Nell Cropsey was that if he should find her the people would say he

knew where the body was and that he killed her. Hayman declared Jim was a strong man and could handle large pieces of timber with ease. Witness thought he knew what he was talking about, for he considered himself a pretty good man.

The prosecution today rested its case. The defense did not introduce any evidence, but the argument was gone into immediately.

The prosecution wanted to prove that the trousers Jim Wilcox today wore in the court house were not those worn on the night of Nell's disappearance, as had been stated.

Miss Ollie Cropsey and Miss Lettie Cropsey, sisters of the dead girl, were sworn. Each testified that the pants worn today were not those he had on the night of November 20.

Lettie said she had searched all about the premises for the picture claimed to have been given Nell, but nothing of it was seen.

"We rest for the state," said Solicitor Ward.

Mr. Bond—If your honor please, that's the case for the defendant."

THE WILCOX TRIAL.

Able Presentation of Both Sides of Case. Wilcox Remains Unmoved.

ELIZABETH CITY, March 19.—Great waves of oratory swept over the attendees at the Wilcox trial today. Five lawyers have now made their pleas.

When Judge Jones had arranged about ventilation, former Solicitor Leary resumed his speech of yesterday, saying the strongest thing against Wilcox was that he was last seen with Miss Cropsey but that was not enough. It was presumed that Wilcox wore a cloak of innocence which requires strong evidence to remove.

The speaker said everything pointed to suicide, that suicide had been discussed that very evening at the Cropsey house and that no testimony given by the doctors disproved the suicide theory.

He said the prosecution had tried to prejudice the case but if the jury would try Wilcox according to the evidence and free from passion there could be brought nothing but a verdict of acquittal.

Mr. Leary spoke, all told, nearly two and a half hours.

Mr. Haywood Sawyer for the prosecution followed. He said he would not seek to convict an innocent man, nor would the State of North Carolina which he represented in part, stain her fair escutcheon with the blood of a blameless citizen.

He said the State contended that murder had been done and that Jim Wilcox did it. The girls and womanhood of North Carolina must be protected. The prosecution would ask for a verdict of murder in the first degree.

He reviewed the evidence, which he said proved conclusively Nell Cropsey was not drowned.

He reasoned that the suicide theory was incompatible with her happy buoyant spirits. He said Nell was a timid girl, and the rest of them had better be timid if they were around such company as Jim Wilcox, or somebody would be fishing them out of Pasquotank river. After reviewing other evidence Mr. Sawyer said:

"Now I have shown you that Nell was not drowned; I have shown you that she was killed by a blow. Now who killed her? Yonder is the man."

The speaker moved towards Wilcox and pointed a finger in his face. The prisoner's expression never changed.

"Now I shall proceed to show you the motive, show you the opportunity, that show he loved her no doubt, but the hell that was in him, that put her out of the way."

Eloquently and forcefully the lawyer told of the love dream, the association of Nell and Jim, and followed their actions up to the fatal night.

"He was in love with her desperately, her love was growing colder and colder," he continued.

"Jim had made up his mind to conquer or kill her. The devil in him was growing bigger and bigger."

stuff sustains them to the grave. It comes from hell and to hell it goes back with them."

They asked Mr. Cropsey about the detective. If I had a daughter slain by a midnight assassin, I would give up every dollar for a detective to run him down and send his body to the grave, his soul to hell.

"I see before me men who have girls budding into womanhood, sweet wives and lovely sisters. I will tell you if the women of North Carolina cannot be protected we had best burn the law books, tear down the jails and court houses dissolve the Legislature and then go back to barbarism."

The orator read several verses of different parts of the Bible and said:

"In the name of God and the names of these wives, sisters, mothers and daughters, I ask you not to let the guilty escape. I ask you under your oaths to bring in a verdict that will put Jim Wilcox to death."

The crush in afternoon was densest yet. Boxes and stools to be used for seats brought good prices and sometimes the purchasers had to give them up. Judge Jones ordered the sheriff to collect two dollars apiece from some men who didn't move when ordered and then he threatened to make it \$10 but learned that the men could not get away. There were about 800 men and women in the room.

Mr. Bond of Edenton spoke during the entire afternoon session and spoke eloquently and forcefully. He brought tears to eyes of spectators during several pathetic flights.

Mr. Bond said there was something indescribably horrible to anybody but a brute about the murder of a young woman, that when suspicion attached to any one the feeling grew until reason was almost dethroned and it was comparable to a storm in the Indian ocean. He expressed sympathy for the stricken family and said he saw four of Nell's sisters sitting before him in sombre colors sitting silently an affection for her memory.

He said Mr. Sawyer had perhaps unconsciously distorted and exaggerated the evidence against this friendless young man who, after all, had one heart which beat for him in silent prayer—his mother's.

Mr. Bond expressed admiration for the demeanor of Judge Cropsey and his daughters during the trial.

He told of the different degrees of murder and pictured the toppling hanging scene that would follow a verdict of guilty and the remorse that would follow if it were shown an innocent man had been slaughtered.

He begged the jury not to be swayed by dramatic appeals even though it required a nerve of iron.

He said he would attempt to show there was not enough evidence to convict Jim Wilcox, nor even to show Nell had been murdered by any body. He then took up the medical testimony and compared the tests to rotten sticks of timber. He argued that the discoloration on the temple was caused by the settling of blood, not by a blow. It was awful to have a man put upon the gallows by popular clamor. He said none of us wished to add to the trouble of the Wilcoxs."

Mr. Bond did not feign that Nell committed suicide but said the affair was yet wrapped in mystery. He said if Wilcox was innocent he had been much wronged and persecuted. Wilcox's conduct since the disappearance was explained. He said without disrespect to womanhood that jealousy was a prominent quality and that conditions for suicide were inviting.

"The ingenuity of prosecuting counsel cannot tear away the pillars of evidence which made it almost impossible for Wilcox to have done murder that night." He gave actions showing an incompatibility with guilt.

"If we don't show reasonable doubt then for God's sake hang him." The speaker said he had a little girl and could sympathize with the Cropseys and then he made a pretty word picture of the anguish endured by Mrs. Wilcox.

The speaker said if he were one of twelve men who voted away an innocent man's life he would expect some dark nemesis of retribution to ever follow him. Mr. Bond talked about three hours. His words were heard with rapt attention by jury and spectators. He quoted cases of pathetic convictions of innocent men. Mr. Bond referred to Wilcox's shadow following the jurors through life if he should be hanged unjustly. The colored jurors rolled their eyes upward and looked scared. He played on their feelings like an evangelist giving death scenes to make converts. The sentiment against Wilcox is not abating at all. Some people think an acquittal would be followed by a lynching but that is doubtful.

Wilcox's nerve is the feature of the trial. Whether he is being held up as a red handed assassin or defended by his own lawyers his expression is always the same, as cold as marble. He has given no sign of guilt in the court house. His face lines are always the same. Today while his father and sisters shed tears Jim was unmoved.

Wilcox Jury Charged. Special to Journal.

ELIZABETH CITY, March 20.—In the Wilcox trial today, Solicitor George Ward spoke for the State. Declared all symptoms of drowning were absent. That girl was murdered. That motive was that the girl was trying to get rid of Wilcox.

Ward's speech was ablest yet made. E. F. Aydlott spoke this afternoon for defense, and Judge charged the jury.

TREATMENT AT HOME.

Dr. Hartman's Free Advice to Women—A Generous Offer to The Afflicted.



Secretary Illinois Woman's Alliance. Miss A. Brady, Corresponding Secretary Illinois Woman's Alliance, writes from 2725 Indiana avenue, Chicago, Ill.: "Last year from continued strain in hospital work I became very much exhausted, my nerves seemed to give way, and I had headache, headache and serious indigestion. One of my friends suggested that I try Peruna. It certainly acted like magic on my system. "Within ten days I felt new life and health given off, and by taking an occasional dose off and on when I feel tired, I keep my system in perfect order."—Miss A. Brady. Miss Nellie Baker writes from 230 East Ohio street, Chicago, Ill.: "I suffered for years with weakness peculiar to women, severe bearing-down pains, and continual headache. "After using five bottles of Peruna I was as well and strong as ever."—Miss Nellie Baker. Mrs. Nellie Blyler, 670 W. Twentieth street, Chicago, Ill., President of the Ladies of the G. A. R., has the following to say about Peruna: Gentlemen—"I recommend Peruna especially for women as it promptly cures the weakness of our sex and will always be sure to give satisfaction."—MRS. NELLIE BLYLER. Mrs. W. A. Allison, Assist. Matron of Peoples' Hospital, 738 Sheffield avenue, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I have had frequent opportunities to observe the wonderful curative effects of Peruna. It alleviates pain and soreness, increases the appetite and so tones up the entire system that the patient quickly regains strength and health."—Mrs. W. A. Allison. Free Home Advice. In view of the great multitude of women suffering from some form of female disease and yet unable to find any cure, Dr. Hartman, the renowned specialist on female catarrhal diseases, has announced his willingness to direct the treatment of as many cases as make application to him during the summer months without charge. Those wishing to become patients should address The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, Ohio.

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Important to Farmers.

In view of the fact that it is not generally understood that the Rice Crop is highly protected from foreign competition by an import duty and that the crops, raised in the United States have every year fallen much below the home consumption, the Carolina Rice Mills of Goldsboro, N. C., in order to encourage the cultivation of Rice on a larger scale than has heretofore been done is now prepared to make contracts with planters in North Carolina for their crops of rice they may raise during the year 1902 on the most liberal terms. Parties interested, who wish to avail themselves of this offer, can communicate with us and we will take pleasure in giving full particulars. Respectfully, CAROLINA RICE MILLS, Goldsboro, N. C. ROMULUS A. NUNN, Attorney at Law, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA Office: South Front Street, Over To Lynch Office.

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