New Bern Weekly Journal.

No. 150 NEW BERN, N. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 1913— FIRST SECTION

POSTMASTER GENERAL OUSTS MR. BASNIGHT, R. A. NUNN IN CHARGE

Developments In The Affair Did Not Come Unexpectedly, Wrangle Has Been Going On For Weeks Postmaster Was Insubordinate

THE NIGHT CLERK NOT REINSTATED

"Who will Be Appointed To Fill The Vacancy?" Is The Question Of The Hour.

(Special to the Journal.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Postmaster J. S. Basnight, of New Bern, was summarily dismissed today by the Postoffice Department for refusing to restore R. E. Smith, night clerk in the New Bern office, whom he had discharged.

This action is the culmination of a long controversy between the Postmaster, who is a Republican, and Smith, a Democrat, and which was brought to the department in counter charges filed by Basnight and Smith against each other.

It was alleged by Smith that the postmaster ignored the civil service rules by appointing a Republican youth, not of age, to a vacancy in the postoffice. Smith claimed he was entitled to the place, which was a promotion, because of his long service in the postoffice. When the postmaster learned that these charges had been filed against him, and before a postoffice inspector could reach New Bern to investigate the case, it is alleged Basnight discharged Smith.

Subsequently, the Postoffice Department sent a telegram to Basnight ordering him to restore the clerk to his position. This telegram was ignored entirely by Basnight, according to Senator Simmons, who took up the case in behalf of Smith. A second telegram was sent to the postmaster demanding an explanation, whereupon Basnight replied that he had acted within his rights, under the law which he claimed gave him the privilege of choosing his assistants as he saw fit.

Then the Postoffice Department sent a peremptory demand to Basnight that he reinstate Smith, and gave him until today to do so. Basnight, according to Senator Simmons, paid no attention to this demand, and Postmaster-General Burleson ordered that the postmaster be summarily removed from office.

The Blow Falls.

At last the blow has fallen. Not unexpected, it is true, but nevertheless swift and sure. The message dismissing Postmaster Basnight was received in this city late yesterday afternoon. The message stated that the American Bonding Company of Baltimore, who are on Mr. Basnight's bond, had been placed in charge of the office.

Following this telegram, R. A. Nunn the local representative of the American Bonding Company, received a message asking him to take charge of the office, and this he did.

At present Mr. Nunn is acting postmaster in the city of New Bern. Shortly after 9 o'clock last night the clerks in the different departments were summoned to the office and at once began the work of inspecting each and every department began. This inspection of the office does not, by any means, put the ex-postmaster in a bad light as far as conducting the business of the office is concerned. There has never been any charges that he was not properly attending to the financial and business end of the office, but is merely the custom of the bonding company to have their representative look into the affairs of any such office under circumstances which now exist at the New Bern postoffice.

Trouble Brewing For Weeks.

The dismissal of Mr. Basnight has been brewing for weeks. Some time [illegible] of September R. E. Smith preferred charges against Mr. Basnight and these were forwarded to the Postoffice Department and Congressman Jno. M. Faison became interested in the matter. The latter came to New Bern and asked Mr. Basnight to resign from office, telling him that unless he acceded to this request, that an investigation would be started and that he would be ousted. This the postmaster refused to do and the matter hung fire for several weeks during which time Congressman Faison made several visits to New Bern for the purpose of securing information in regard to the charges against the postmaster.

About three weeks ago Postmaster Basnight filed charges against night clerk R. E. Smith. These charges were trivial and in a letter to Postoffice Inspector G. G. Hemilwright, Mr. Smith denied them, singularly and collectively. Nothing was heard in regard to the matter until last Saturday night when the mpostaster dismissed Smith from the office, claiming tnat he had a right to do this as the night clerk was on six months probation and that his work was not satisfactory and that he was a disorganization factor in the office.

This action on the part of Mr. Basnight is believed by many to be the direct cause for being dismissed. Believing that he was in the right in dismissing night clerk Smith, Mr. Basnight ignored the demands of the Postoffice Department to reinstate him and his dismissal yesterday, followed.

Smith Not Reinstated.

So far night clerk Smith has not been reinstated and George Howard, over whom all the contention started, was in charge of that department as usual last night. That Mr. Basnight expected to be dismissed there is little doubt. He told a friend last night that he felt relieved, and there is no denying the fact that he has been under a heavy mental strain during the past few days.

Mr. Basnight was appointed as postmaster of the local postoffice in June, 1910, and his term would have expired next June. More than six months remain before the expiration of his term, but regardless of the fact that there are several candidates in the field for the office, it is the general opinion of those who are familiar with the case, the he would have been allowed to remain in charge had not the present trouble arisen.

Now that the postmaster has been dismissed and the bonding company placed in charge until some one can be appointed to fill the office until the end of the unexpired term, there is much speculation as to whom this will be.

There are four candidates for the place. John Thomas, L. G. Daniels, S. H. Lane and Frank Weathersbee. Each of these gentlemen want the office and have excellent reasons to believe that they will be appointed. However, only one of them can fill the office and it is a matter of much speculation as to who will be the fortunate man.

When it became noised around last night that Mr. Basnight had been dismissed, the wise ones at once began to prophecy as to whom would be appointed. The general opinion of the public is that the race is between Mr. Daniels and Mr. Thomas. Constituents of both these gentlemen kept the Postal Telegraph Company's office open until midnight sending telegams to Senator F. M. Simmons recommening these gentlemen, and urging that he use his influence in having one of them appointed to fill the office.

S. H. Lane Talks.

Mr. S. H. Lane, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, is one of the candidates for the office who up to a day or two ago had not been very active in the race. However, his friends say that he has just as good a chance to be appointed to the office as either of the other candidates and have begun to make a fight to get him the appointment.

In an interview given a Journal reporter last night Mr. Lane said: "Although some of my friends have possibly come to the conclusion that I have decided to get out of the race for the postmastership at this place, there is no foundation for such belief, and I want to tell you that I am in the race until the finish.

"I have not been out circulating petitions and securing promises until today when my friends told me it was time to get busy. My friends have, today, secured several hundred indorsements from prominent citizens. I have been Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Craven county for six years, and during this time the records show that the Democratic vote has increased from 1,766 in 1906, to 1,946 in 1912. This is a good record I believe and I am entitled to some consideration from the party leaders."

The reporter could not get in touch with the other candidates laste last night, and was therefore unable to get an interview with them. Acting Postmaster R. A. Nunn stated that he had absolutely nothing to say in regard to the matter.

Just when the appointment of a new postmaster will be made is a matter of much speculation. However, it is more than probable that the office will be filled during the next few days.

LOCAL MERCHANTS TO KEEP STORES OPEN LATER

DOING THIS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

With Christmas less than three weeks hence New Bern has already taken on a holiday appearance and from now until after the first of the year the city, especially down in the business district, will present a scene of marked activity.

The scene down in the shopping district is always a busy one, but last night seemed to be an exception. To the casual observer it probably seemed that fully fifty per cent. of the population was out on a shopping expedition The local merchans have stocked their stores with an extensive line of hooliday goods and this naturally, attracts hundreds of purchasers.

The majority of the merchants close their establishments at 7 o'clock during the week, but from now on until after Christmas these establishments will be kept open until a later hour in order that those who cannot come down town during the day will have an opportunity of doing their shopping at night.

HYMAN'S NEW GARAGE CREDIT TO NEW BERN

LARGE NEW BUILDING IS MODERN IN EVERY PARTICULAR.

In the opening of the new garage by the Hyman Supply Company, New Bern has added to its list of motor driven vehicle hostelries, one of the finest in the State. The building, which is located on South Front street just opposite the Hyman Supply Company's office and supply building, was erected especially for the purpose and nothing has been left undone that would tend to make it complete in every detail.

The entire building is well lighted by large skylights during the day and numerous electric lights at night. The floor is of concrete and in the front part is the storage room for the machines. In the rear is the repair department and this is equipped for any variety of work.

Taken as a whole the new garage is as modern and well equipped throughout as any in the South.

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

OLD MAN KILLS HIMSELF.

A. P. Bump, of New Hanover County Uses Shotgun To End His Life.

Wilmington, Dec. 4.—A. P. Bump, about 60 years old, committed suicide early this evening at the home of a man with whom he was living two miles from the city. Placing the muzzle of a shotgun over his heart, it is presumed he pushed the trigger with a walking cane. No one was at home at the time He left several notes. In one he stated that his health was getting worse all the time, hence he had determined to kill himself. He had been a cripple for many years.

Earl H. Bellamy, an employe of government dredge No. 9, was drowned from an oil barge down Cape Fear river last night, news of which was received here today. He slipped from the barge in an attempt to cast off the lines by which the boat had been towed to the side of the river. The body has not been revocered. He was from Wampee, South Carolina.

RULES FOR GROUCHES.

Timely Topics On A Vital Subject.

Postmaster J. S. Basnight has handed us the following "Rules for Grouches." Being on a timely subject and with his consent we are publishing the same:

"Bartholomew S. Slavin, who is in charge of one of the Philadelphia subpostoffices is tired of hearing complaints about non-delivery of mail. In an effort to lighten his burden by making chronic complainers think before registering a kick he has formulated and published fhe tollowing set of "rules:"

"Positively no letters will be given out until they are received.

"If you don't get a letter or a paper on the day you expect it have the Postmaster look through all the other boxes and then search the cellar also. It ought to be somewhere and he likes to hunt for it just to please you.

"If you friend doesn't write rave, at the Postmaster. Somehow he is to blame.

"If he insists there are no letters for you put on a grieved look and say there ought to be some. He is probably hiding your mail for the pleasure of having you call again and again for it.

"If you are buying stamps make him lick them and put them on. That is part of the business he is paid to do."

POSTMASTER BASNIGHT RECEIVES NEW ORDER

POSTMASTER-GENERAL CITES THE RULES ON CERTAIN THINGS.

Hundreds of letters bearing Red Cross Seals are each day mailed at the local postoffice. During the past week the senders of a number of the letters have placed the seals on the wrong side of the letter and these have been returned.

Postmaster J S. Basnight has received the following order from the Postmaster General in regard to the placing of seals on the wrong side of letters:

"No adhesive stamps, or imitations of stamps, of any form or design whatever, other than lawful postage stamps, shall be affixed to the *address side* of domestic mail matter, but such adhesive stamps, provided they do not in form and design resemble lawful postage stamps, and do not bear numerals, may be affixed to the *reverse side* of domestic mail matter.

"All domestic mail matter bearing, on the *address side* adhesive stamps, or imitations of stamps, other than lawful postage stamps, will be returned to the sender, if known, otherwise they will be forwarded to the Division of Dead Letters.

All persons using red cross stamps on Christmas packages and other mail matter should be governed by the above order."

GEORGE LEON TILTON CONVICTED ON SHORT NOTICE AT NORFOLK.

Norfolk, Dec. 4.—When George Leon Tilton was arraigned on a charge of bigamy in the Corporation Court yesterday, he had no defense to make, and within three minutes from the time the case was opened was sentenced by Judge Alan R. Hanckel to serve three years in the penitentiary.

Tilton formerly lived in Goldsboro, N. C., and it was upon complaint of his first wife, who, with her three-year-old daughter, lives in that town, that Tilton was arrested in Cincinnati, O., several days ago and brought back here for trial.

After marrying Miss Gertrude Jordan, the sixteen-year-old daughter of Mr, and Mrs. J. T. Jordan, of Forty-third street, Lambert's Point, on April 16, last, Tilton went to Richmond, where he secured work and later visited his first wife in Goldsboro. It was during this visit that his first wife found a letter from the young girl Tilton had married here. She informed the local police and Tilton was apprehended in Cincinnati.

RECEPTION FOR THE CORN CLUB MEMBERS

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON WILL RECEIVE THEM— EXTENSIVE PROGRAM.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 4.—The Department of Agriculture has issued an official program for the annual reception of the champion members of the boys' and girls' agricultural clubs which will be held in Washington, December 11th to 18th. The itinerary includes a reception by President Wilson, the awarding of diplomas by Secretary of Agriculture Houston and attending sessions of both Senate and House and hearings before the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture.

There will be a champion member of the Boys' Corn Clubs from each of the Southern States; champions of the Girls' Canning Clubs from the Southern, Northern and Western States, and Girls' and Boys' Potato Club champions from Massachusetts, Ohio, Utah, Iowa and Michigan. Colorado will send a Sugar Beet Club boy as the champion sugar beet grower of the State and the sole representative of this club work which has recently been started by the Department. These champion boys and girls will represent an organization of over 150,000 boys and girls.

While the Department will officially have charge of the program for the reception, the expenses of the trip are being defrayed by the different States, counties, municipal authorities and private citizens.

The members will arrive in Washington December 11th and will be given a "get acquainted" reception at the Ebbitt House. The President will receive the delegates on Monday morning, December 15th, at 10:20 o'clock.

The program for the 12th includes a visit to different points of interest in the city and a trip to Arlington Cemetery and Fort Meyer. During the morning of the 13th Secretary Houston will present the champion winners with diplomas, after which moving pictures of the party will be taken. They will then visit the different departments and museums. A theatre party will be given in the evening.

Sunday, the 14th, will be given to rest and attending churches and meetings of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. On the following day the party will be taken down the Potomac to Mount Vernon, to visit the home and tomb of Washington. On the 16th a visit will be made to the Capitol where Congress will be seen in session; hearings before the Committees on Agriculture will be attended; a visit will be made to the Government Printing Office and Navy Yard, and a theatre party will be given in the evening. The two final days, the 17th and 18th, will be taken up with visits to the Pan-American Union Building, Potomac Park, Corocran Art Gallery and the different legations, an auto trip through the city and a trip to the Zoological Park. The annual conference of club leaders will be held and a special conference on the Girls' Club work. A feature of the week will be a conference of the Department's lady agents who will be in Washington from every section where they are located and who will act as chaperons to the boys and girls.

LOTTIE'S NOTE FALLS INTO RIVAL'S HANDS, BUT JOHNNIE GETS IT ANYHOW.

New York, Dec. 5.—Lottie Dowling wrote a note. According to the police of the Tremont station, it was addressed to fifteen-year-old Johnnis Beck, of No. 2021 La Fontaine avenue, but it in some manner it fell into the hands of Freddy Brestam.

Finding his social correspondence had got into other hands, Johnnie walked into the Tremont station last night and asking for a couple of policemen to help him get his note from Freddy.

"It's from a lady," was the only information the police could get at first from Johnnie, but he later admitted it was from Lottie Dowling, who is fifteen years old and lives at No. 595 East One Hundred and Seventy-eighth street

Lieut. McCarthy assigned Policeman Silva to locate Freddy and get the note. He was found a few doors from his home, at No. 1999 Arthur avenue.

Freddy gave up the note. He didn't have to explain how he got it, for Mr. Beck appeared to be well pleased with its contents after a brief perusal, and said he was satisfied with the work of the police on the case. He did not divulge its contents.

BODY OF CAPTAIN EDGE RECOVERED.

Wilmington, Dec. 4.—The body of Capt. Henry Edge, who was drowned November 14, when the steamer C. W. Lyon was burned on the Cape Fear river 20 miles above Wilmington, was found this morning by Captain Stirling Singletair, of the tug Grayling. The body was floating in the river nearly three miles below where the drowning occurred. The remains will be taken to White Oak, Bladen county, tomorrow morning, for burial.

THE STOCK LAW WRANGLE TO COURT

Supreme Court Will Be Asked To Adjudicate This Matter.

OF VITAL IMPORTANCE

Onslow, Lenoir, Craven And Jones Counties Face A Dilemma.

Kinston, N. C., Dec. 4.—The stock law wrangle—if it can be called a wrangle—in this part of the State, will be taken to the Supreme Court.

This is the decision of the Lenoir county board of commissioners. Three counties are directly involved and as many more indirectly in the confusion which has come out ot the making of Sampson county into stock law territory. When Sampson chose to become a part of the fence territory it devolved upon her northern neighbor, Suplin, to do likewise or build a long and costly fence. Duplin's legislator introduced a bill to include that county. Foreseeing trouble brewing for Lenoir, the commissioners immediately got busy and requested that county's representative in the General Assembly to try to stave off the legislation affecting Duplin. The representative was given to understand that he was representing Lenoir, not Duplin, and that the latter was the county most interested in the matter pending. When Duplin became stock law territory, rather than expend many thousands of dollars in the building of a fence to separate this county from Duplin, the Lenoir commissioners had the representative from this county introduce a bill requiring fences in this county.

Now the trouble has developed with Craven and Jones, which counties were notified that Lenoir's stock law would go into effect on March 1, 1914. Counsel for these counties stated that there could be found no such law which requires them to do the fencing to keep Jones and Craven county farmers' stock from coming onto Lenoir's farmers' lands it seemed to them logical that Lenoir county should build it Precedent up held their view, it was stated. In contradiction to this, Lenoir's commissioners held that the only precedent of which there is knowledge applies only to individuals and small communities, and that counties have not before been involved in such a mix-up. Stock of Craven and Jones planters coming into Lenoir to become a nuisance to farmers protected by fence from their Lenoir neighbors' animals could be impounded; then the unfenced boundaries might separate neighbors with hard feelings for one another. All the litigants realize this, but Lenoir, with a decided advantage in the matter, it seems to her commissioners, is in a position to assume a jaunty air and act independently in the controversy. However, to fo the "fair thing," the board will present to the commissioners of Craven and Jones a proposition to draw up an "agreed case" to be decided by the Supreme Court, with the claims of each of the contenders outlined fully. The State's highest tribunal will say whether Craven and Jones or Lenoir shall spend the big sum that the fences will cost.

Onslow county, facing a dilemm similar to that experienced by Dupl and Lenoir, will vote upon the stock law question on December 15th, with decidedly preponderant sentiment for fencing, according to the estimate s of leading citizens there today. In Onslow the fence advocates are denouncing the "Fatal Free Range" as responsible for prevalent stock diseases, and advance as other benefits to be derived from the law the segregation of improved stock from inferior and increase on interest in animal husbandry.

Other counties in the section are now taking notice, and if the Supreme Court decided in favor of Lenoir, no man can predict what the end will be. Very few of the counties could stand the expense of fencing from their neighbors, and it is possible that the whole eastern part of the State will be incorporated as stock law territory as a result of the present Lenoir-Craven-Jones dispute.

Most children are dissatisfied with the behavior of their parents.

And many a man who has the cheek to raise whiskers doesn't even try it.

BROTHER KILLS HIS BROTHER BY ACCIDENT.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Clinton Gibbs accidentally killed his brother, James Gibbs, while hunting near their home at Ransomville yesterday. While loading his gun for the purpose of shooting a hawk the gun fired with the result that James was shot in the breast and death was almost instant. Dr. J. T. Nicholson, of Bath, was called but arrived too late to save the young man's life.

THE JOURNAL MAKES A HOLIDAY OFFER

A MATTER OF INTEREST TO EVERY READER OF THIS PAPER.

What to give relatives and friends for a Christmas Gift is "the question of the hour" just at this season. There are so many things that one can purchase, but then one is never certain that they will prove acceptable and there is nothing more bothersome than to know that a gift sent some relative or friend is going to be something they have no earthly use for.

Everybody reads a newspaper. It is something that is brought into service every day in the year and it is something that is always in demand. There could be no more acceptable gift than a year's subscription to a good daily newspaper. It is something that will be useful and will be appreciated.

For the benefit of its subscribers and those who are about to become a member of the big family of Journal readers, the publishers of the paper are making a special offer for the holidays. The regular price of the Journal is four dollars a year and its worth every cent of it, too, but until December 24, a special rate of three dollars per year will be made for new subscribers only.

On another page will be found a coupon. Fill in this coupon with your name and the name of the friend or relative to whom you want the paper sent. The first issue will be started on the morning of December 25, Christmas Day, and along with it will go a Christmas card on which will be the name of the donor of the gift.

Every day in the year will the recipient of such a gift be reminded of the relative or friend who remembered them during the holiday season of 1913. Now is the time to attend to this matter. Sit right down, fill out the coupon and mail it to the Journal. A receipt will be forwarded to you and the paper will go to the recipient of the gift on Christmas morning.

REFUGEES REACH AMERICAN SOIL

Spent Five Days On The Desert Without Food Or Water.

MET BY CUSTOM OFFICERS

President Huerta Exerting Every Effort To Get Money.

Maria, Texas, Dec. 5.—Five days on a desert without any food or water than they could carry with them, the refugees from Chihuahua City evacuated by the Federals, were today within a few miles of Ojinaga, on the border opposite Presidio, Texas, United States customs and immigration inspectors left Maria to meet the refugees in the expectation that they would cross the border, and also to meet any contingency that might arise in event that any of the Mexican Federal army officers should seek safety in this country.

At the head of the fleeing army officers is Gen. Salavador Mercado, Huerta's military commander in Northern Mexico, who evacuated Chihuahua after his troops threatened mutiny because they received no pay. Two thousand Federal troops, with members of some of the richest families in Mexico, are in the caravan.

Almost everyone in Maria has left for the border to witness the arrival of the refugees. Maria is about 50 miles from Presidio and is connected with it only by a wagon road and a telephone.

Villa Arumada, Mexico., Dec. 5.—Fifty-five hundred rebels forming the nucleus of the army with which Gen. Francisco Villa says he will march to Mexico City, were to enter Chihuahua City, the State capital some time tonight.

It is in this city that Villa said he would gather about him 10,000 men to start south by way of Torreon and Zacateas, to Mexico City. The report that Zacatecas, with 30,000 population and the capital of a rich mining district, already was being attacked, indicated that the rebels to the south were in great numbers. Villa plans to have at least 20,000 men when he reaches the high plateau leading to the capital of the Republic. Already equipped with machine guns, artillery and millions of rounds of ammunition by his victories in the North, Villa said he was no longer hampered by his inability to get arms from foreign sources, but could readily obtain them from the Federals who are reported is the few remaining northern strongholds to be ready to evacuate.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

Your Druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives ease and rest. 50c.

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