

Weather:  
Rain

# GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

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## MRS. LOWE TELLS STORY OF THE FATAL RIDE WITH O. G. THOMAS IN HIS CAR

### Declares Thomas Was Friend of Her Family—Her Testimony Is Not Shaken—Thomas Given Good Character by Witnesses from Home Town.

CONCORD, Jan. 18. — Mrs. Robert Lowe, handsome leader of the Kannapolis social whirl, went on the witness stand here at noon Wednesday and told the first eye-witness story of the fatal Bergerburg auto ride.

Amid frequent objections by Solicitor Clement and his aides of the State's legal staff, Mrs. Lowe told how she sat in a Buick automobile on the night of October 25, and saw O. G. (Red) Thomas, Charlotte auto salesman, shoot and kill Arthur G. Allen, Concord plumber.

Mrs. Lowe said Thomas pumped two shots into Allen's body as he stood by the automobile and ordered Thomas to throw up his hands.

The witness will be cross-examined later this afternoon. Thomas, the defendant in the first degree murder trial, is expected to follow her to the stand.

Mrs. Lowe, looking pale and wan and plainly showing the terrible strain she has been under for the past three months, faltered as she walked to the witness stand. Every eye in a crowded courtroom was upon her.

She quickly recovered herself, however, and after getting her bearings engaged in the animated repartee indulged in by the opposing lawyers.

Mrs. Lowe, looking pale and wan blue silk dress with tan slippers and hose to match, said she was born in Williamsport, Tenn., and that her maiden name was Lizzie Choate. She spelled out the name, C-H-O-A-T-E. She said she has been married 14 years and has a son 11 years old. She has lived in Kannapolis six years and prior to that resided in Memphis for eight years.

Known Thomas for Year. The witness said she has known Thomas for a year and a half. She met him in Kannapolis at Cline's boarding house. She also knows Mrs. Thomas quite intimately and said the relation between the two families was of the friendliest nature. Frequently, she said she and Mrs. Thomas have visited in each other's homes.

After admitting that she was with Thomas on the night Allen was slain, Mrs. Lowe testified as follows:

"We left in his automobile from Cline's boarding house, intending to go to the home of Oscar Overcash, where Mr. Thomas said he had business. We had planned to later go to a movie and Mr. Neal and Miss Sloop were to be members of the party, but they left before Mr. Thomas was ready and so we went alone."

"When you came down stairs did you find Deal there?" she was asked.

"Yes."

"What, if anything, did he tell you?"

"He said Mr. Thomas had gone to town to try to locate his stolen pistol."

"What became of Miss Sloop and Mr. Deal?"

"They went on to the picture show."

"Did they tell why they went?"

"They said it was because Mr. Thomas was so long getting back."

"Did you ask them to wait?"

"I insisted, I certainly did."

"How long after they left did Thomas return?"

"In about ten minutes Mr. Cline, of the boarding house, came in about that time and Mr. Thomas asked him to go with us, but he said he could not."

"All right, Mrs. Lowe, now go ahead and tell in your own way, just what happened," said Attorney J. J. Parker.

Carried Pistol. "I got in the car first and sat on the right side. Mr. Thomas handed me a pistol which he said belonged to Deal. He drove the car and I carried the pistol in my lap."

"We rode south to a crossing and then out into the National Highway, after which we drove south again until we went to a little garage a short distance down the road, just finding it closed, turned around and started back towards the Overcash home."

"At the intersection of the highway and the Beth-Page road we saw a Ford Sedan turn around in front of us. It remained about 60 yards in front of us. Mr. Thomas was angling his lights from right to left, trying to locate the Overcash home. He never shut off his engine, but was running very, very slowly. When he did stop the car he did not switch off the motor."

"Just as we stopped, I heard a door slam in the Ford, just ahead of us, but paid no attention to it. A man came up on the left side of the car. He wore a brown shirt but I could not tell whether he was white or black. The Ford was standing 60 yards ahead of us on the right side of the road."

"South or north of the Overcash home?" asked Mr. Parker.

"South."

"Did the Ford ever pass your car?"

"No sir."

Continuing Mrs. Lowe said, "the man came up to Mr. Thomas and said, 'are you following me?'"

"Mr. Thomas said, 'Why no, I am not following you.'"

"Then the man said, 'Throw up your hands.'"

"What did you do then?" queried Mr. Parker.

"I said 'Lord have mercy.' Mr. Thomas grabbed the pistol out of my lap and fired three times at the man."

"I asked Mr. Thomas to please take me home and he did at once."

The witness was then dismissed and turned over to the state for cross-examination which was to start immediately after lunch.

On cross-examination Mrs. Lowe was questioned by L. C. Caldwell for the state. She admitted that she had ridden with Thomas a number of times, but only twice at night, once on the night of the homicide and once during the last.

## COTTON FIBRE CAN BE SLICED VERY, VERY THIN

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 19. — Cotton fibres can be sliced into sections less than one-five thousandths of an inch thick for microscopic examination and photographing, under a system perfected by Professor Walter H. Snell, and N. O. Howard, of the botany department of Brown University.

Development of this method will open a new field of scientific investigation in the cotton industry, according to Professor Snell, who says that increasing attention is being devoted to the action and penetration of various classes of dyes into both fibre and yarn and the effects of dyeing processes, mercerization and sizing.

## "BUSINESS IS BUSINESS, NOT SPECULATION" SAYS BAN

### Undue Stimulation and Expansion Will Not Work This Year, Declares Herbert P. Howell.

(By The Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. — This year of 1922 will be "a good year for remembering above all that business is business and not speculation," Herbert P. Howell, vice president of the National Bank of Commerce, today told delegates to the convention of the National Wholesale Dry Goods Association.

"Undue stimulation and expansion simply will not work this year," he asserted.

Stable businesses will command adequate banking facilities at reasonable rates, he said, for the banks are better fitted than they were in 1921 to finance legitimate and worthy enterprises.

"The attitude of the public in regard to buying is a more calculable factor," he continued. "It is the first place, the idea that the public will buy at almost any price can be eliminated from business calculations. It can be set down as definite that the public has become thrifty and discriminate in buying."

He asserted that the re-opening of world markets must play an important part in the business of 1922.

"Excess production must be sold," he declared. "While the world markets are in their present demoralized condition the marketing of such surpluses will be a problem. America has the resources and is equipped to do an enormous business. But markets in both the foreign and domestic fields are sadly out of gear."

## SEEK CHANNEL FROM ATLANTIC TO GREAT LAKES

(By The Associated Press.)

OTTAWA, Jan. 19. — While the project to provide a great international channel for ocean going ships by improving the St. Lawrence river to the Great Lakes is being studied by the Governments of the United States and Canada, proponents of an alternative plan, the proposed Ottawa and Georgian bay canal, are seeking to enlist support for their "all-Canadian" waterway.

Advantages claimed for this route over the St. Lawrence ship channel include its position entirely within Canadian territory, its immunity from the storm hazards of the lakes and the saving in mileage.

According to reports of Canadian Government engineers who have made an exhaustive study of the project, the Ottawa and Georgian bay canal scheme is practicable. As surveyed, the canal would follow the St. Lawrence from Montreal to the junction of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers; thence the Ottawa would be followed to Mattawa; and Lake Nipissing and the French river would provide outlet from the Ottawa river to Lake Huron.

## BASEBALLS TO HAVE RUBBER CENTERS

(By The Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19. — Baseballs with rubber centers will be used in the Pacific Coast League during the 1922 season, the directors have decided. For several years the official league balls have had cork centers, which, it was claimed by many, made the balls too lively. The rubber ball, it thought, will not be as lively.

## PHILLY NATIONALS TO PLAY EIGHT EXHIBITION GAMES

(By The Associated Press.)

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19. — Eight exhibition games will be played by the Philadelphia National League club, after leaving the training camp at Leesburg, Fla.

The schedule follows: April 1, Columbia, S. C.; April 3, Charlotte, N. C.; April 4, Baltimore at Winston-Salem, N. C.; April 5, Baltimore at Winston-Salem; April 6, Richmond, Va.; April 7, Henderson, N. C.; April 8, Athletics at Philadelphia; April 9, Newark.

Efforts will be made to arrange a series of games with the Washington club, which will train at Tampa. Games already have been scheduled with seven Florida teams and others are under consideration for the training period. The players will leave for Leesburg, the first week in March.

## ONLY 45,000 QUALIFIED DENTISTS IN AMERICA

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 19. — Preventive dentistry and mouth hygiene were the underlying themes of the 58th annual meeting and clinic of the National Dental Association, which opened here today.

Leaders in the profession declared that there are only 45,000 qualified dentists in America and that this number is not large enough to care for needs of the population. Therefore, they assert, the only solution of the dentistry problem of the country lies in perfecting preventive measures.

## Tells of Seeing Soldier Shot By A Firing Squad In July 1918 Near Town of Chateau Thierry

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — The shooting of a soldier by a firing squad in France was described to the Senate committee investigating alleged illegal executions today by George W. Yarbrough, of Roanoke, Ala., who said he was an eye witness.

"During heavy shell fire near Chateau Thierry," said Yarbrough, "I was going up the road with other men when we saw a soldier, his hands tied behind him, being marched toward the woods. The sight was so unusual it distracted our attention from the shelling. There was an officer, I judged to be a major, in charge of the squad, and when they started to shoot the soldier, a white boy about 20 years old, he asked that he be not blindfolded."

The witness said it was twenty steps away when the command was given to fire. He was positive the execution was in July, 1918.

Yarbrough said he did not know whether there had been a trial, and that he knew of no other execution.

Yarbrough, who said he had appeared here, reluctantly, after a soldier had requested that he be summoned, testified that he had heard the soldier was shot for neglect of duty. He did not know to what command the man shot was attached but said he understood the officer in charge of the firing squad was

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN LEGION MEETS

(By The Associated Press.)

GREENVILLE, N. C., Jan. 18. — The executive committee of the American Legion met here today to whip into final shape affairs of the organization before the state commander, T. W. Bird, of Asheville, and Adjutant Gale K. Burgess, attend the convention of state commanders and adjutants in Indianapolis, national headquarters, Friday and Saturday. Reports on the activities and progress of the state division will be made during the meeting.

Discussion of the soldier bonus at the morning session resulted in an agreement to begin an educational campaign to show the merits of each form of bonus suggested. The hold-up insurance or the home ownership plan was favored by the committee as the most desirable.

It was shown how the paid-up insurance bonus has three and a half times the value of a straight-out cash permit. The committee could see more lasting good from the insurance of home-ownership bonus than from the cash plan.

Visit to North Carolina. Commander Bird and Adjutant Burgess were authorized to confer with the national commander in Indianapolis about the matter of his visit to this state.

profoundly in February, it was suggested that the state be divided into a western, central and eastern section, and that the commander be invited to speak at a suitable city in each division.

The commander made the announcement that examining physicians will be sent out by the government soon to various soldier hospitals to adjudicate the claims of the ex-soldiers in the hospitals. There is a large number of controverted cases, he pointed out, that need the attention of government men.

The committee voted for the motion that all resolutions and endorsements made by any legion post in the state should first be passed upon in the adjutant's office before promulgation. It is thought that all the posts can better coordinate under this ruling.

With the exception of three, all members of the executive committee were present. Those in attendance were T. W. Bird, who presided; J. R. Hollis, C. K. Burgess, Rev. T. G. Vickers, R. S. McNeill, Dr. G. G. Dixon, R. T. Allen, T. C. Daniels, D. W. Terry, R. E. Denny and J. W. Pless, Jr. Several lines of men spoke on phases of legion activities with the aim to show how posts could operate most efficiently and profitably.

Believed to be Key. CHECK OF BENEDICT ARNOLD. NEW YORK, Jan. 19. — What is believed to be the key check that served General Benedict Arnold's staff officers whenever they unlocked official documents, is one of the revolutionary relics acquired by the Field Exploration Committee of the New York Historical Society, it was learned today.

The key check probably assisted the traitorous Arnold the night he removed military plans from West Point and came down the Hudson to meet Major André, of the British. It was found in the ruins of an old house in Brooklyn, and with it were about two dozen copper coins of the stamp of George II and George III. Arnold, it is known, after his defection from the Continental Army lived in New York as long as the British held the city.

The check is made of lead, about one-eighth of an inch thick, and about three inches long. On one side is stamped "Arnold's staff," and on the other "Con Army."

## FARM BUREAU DELEGATES GATHER AT FLORENCE

(By The Associated Press.)

FLORENCE, Ala., Jan. 19. — Representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation from most of the cotton growing States and from the corn and wheat belt sections of the Mississippi valley, were arriving here today for a meeting of the Southern group of the farm bureau, which begins here tomorrow.

## BULLET NEAR BASE OF BRAIN WAS CAUSE OF BAD PRISONER'S OUTBREAKS

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 19. — Results of an operation performed to remove a bullet from the brain of Benjamin Buckner, serving a life term in the Joliet State penitentiary for murder, which transformed him from a "bad man" to a model prisoner, will be put before the State Board of Pardons and Pardon, in an effort to obtain his release, it became known here today.

Buckner was sentenced in 1905. Upon his arrival at the prison, he began a reign of terror, engaging in fights with other prisoners and refusing to obey orders. He continued to be unmanageable until recently when he complained of severe headaches. He told physicians that years ago he had been shot in the head and the bullet had not been removed. The bullet was found near the base of the brain. Its pressure, physicians said, was the cause of his outbreaks.

## WILL TRAIN AMERICAN TROOPS WITH FRENCH '75'

(By The Associated Press.)

CHIEF OF FIELD ARTILLERY ISSUES ORDERS THAT ALL AMERICAN TROOPS BE EQUIPPED WITH MODEL FRENCH GUN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — Training of regular army troops with American model 75-mm. guns will be discontinued and training with the French '75 will be extended to artillery units of the regular establishment, the national guard and officers of the organized reserves. Orders already have been issued by the chief of field artillery, it was learned today, directing organizations in the regular army equipped with the American models to turn them in for the French type replacements.

It is the policy of the field artillery chief to equip all field artillery brigades stationed in the United States with the French guns. They have been accepted as the standard light gun for the regular army and the national guard and, in time of national emergency, would be issued to the organized reserves.

In extending the instruction to organized reserve officers, the letter says, a new departure in army training has been made.

"We are now inaugurating," it says, "the systematic instruction of the third component of the army of the United States—the organized reserves. It is so far as the chief of field artillery is concerned, the size of the classes will be limited only by the amount of funds Congress makes available."

Sufficient funds are available at the present time, the letter continues, for conducting a course of instruction in field artillery subjects at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for a limited number of artillery reserve corps officers. The plans today approved call for two officers from each corps area to attend the ten-week course which begins March 1.

## TRADE GLITTERING TRAPPINGS FOR SOMETHING TO EAT

(By The Associated Press.)

KURSK, RUSSIA, Jan. 17. — Trappings of civilization are finding strange uses in the peasant huts of Russia. City folks who have fled to rural districts in search of bread and peace have frequently been compelled to trade their belongings to the peasants for food. Frequently, however, they have little idea how to use the articles which come to them in exchange for milk and flour.

An American who recently visited a village near this city saw a magnificent concert grand piano in one room of a hut which sheltered a peasant family of six. The family's cooking utensils were stacked on top of the piano and a small pipe was tied to one of the legs.

Under the icon which hung in one corner of the room the visitors saw a number of glittering objects which upon closer inspection proved to be the silver fittings from a man's toilet case. The handsome Russia leather case from which the toilet articles had been taken was lying on the floor, filled with cow feed.

## UNUSUAL COLD WAVE HITS PART OF COUNTRY

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 19. — A cold wave bearing south, reached eastward from the Rocky Mountains today, leaving behind the coldest weather known in Washington and Oregon since 1909, and below zero weather in the northern western States was expected to reach Illinois today.

The lowered temperatures will spread in to Kentucky, Oklahoma, Mississippi and some of the states, the government weather bureau said.

Texas felt the cold wave which reached far south into that state while New Orleans was preparing for some unusual cold, following the forecast of a drop in temperature of 40 degrees in parts of Louisiana and Mississippi.

## HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON OTHER AGENCIES

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 19. — Highway development must depend on a more critical economic analysis than in the past, and highway transport officials must prepare their cases, W. K. Hatt, director of the advisory board on highway research of Washington, D. C., told delegates of the National Good Roads Congress in session here today.

"The proportion of the national wealth available for the purposes of transportation is limited," he said. "This proportion must be distributed among the various agencies, railroads, highways, etc. In as much as the money spent on one agency is not available for another it is clear that highway transport is intimately bound up with transportation in general."

## THE WEATHER

(By The Associated Press.)

North Carolina, probably rain tonight and Friday, warmer in east and colder in extreme west portion, colder Friday.

## DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF RAIL FACILITIES IN CHINA

### Question of Chinese Eastern Railway Is Referred to Special Committee of Eastern Experts.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — The American and British proposals for promoting an equitable development of railroad facilities in China formed the subject of discussion for today's meeting of the arms conference for eastern committee. Except for brief statements by Secretary Hughes and Sir Auckland Geddes, in submitting them to the committee, neither the American resolution, by which the powers would record their hope for an eventual unification of transportation lines in China under Chinese control, nor the British proposal to pledge the powers against discriminatory practices on roads under their control, was discussed yesterday, and it remained today for the other powers to record their attitude on both.

While in neither proposal was there any exclusion of either the Shantung or Manchurian lines, in approaching the railroad problem the committee agreed, at the suggestion of Secretary Hughes, that the question of the Chinese eastern railway be referred to a special sub-committee for far eastern experts for separate consideration. It has been indicated that retention of the present control of this line, traversing the border between Manchuria and Siberia, by an inter-allied commission would be recommended in view of the present unsettled conditions in Russia.

Although the Chinese delegates reserved the right to call up again the provision of the American open door proposal which would have authorized an inquiry into existing concessions, in China, it was the general impression among the delegates today that this had been permanently sidetracked when it was struck out of the resolution yesterday before adoption of its other provisions.

Despite the view of many delegates that this feature constituted the most sweeping provision of the American plan, it was represented as the opinion of the American delegation today that its elimination did not materially weaken the effect of the resolution as there would still be opportunity under remaining provisions for examination of existing concessions where both parties agreed to it.

Declaring the movement has received a great impetus in the past year, officials said that an application was pending from a big cotton warehouse in New Bedford, Mass., with a capacity of over 100,000 bales to come in under the Federal act. This was said to be the first one received from the cotton mill section of New England.

Officials of the Department believe that absence of Federal grades for tobacco warehouses so far complying under the Federal law. The Department is now working on tentative tobacco grades and when this is completed it is the opinion of those doing the work that the tobacco industry will join the cotton, grain and wool interests in seeking benefits of the warehouse act.

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## TWO WITNESSES WERE FORCIBLY DETAINED

(By The Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19. — What the defense in the second Roscoe C. Buckle manslaughter trial proposed to do so as a result of testimony that two prosecution witnesses had been detained at the home of an attorney of the district attorney's office was a major topic of conversation around the court room today.

Miss Alice Blake, a participant in the party at the hotel St. Francis here at which Arduke is accused of inflicting fatal injuries on Miss Virginia Bappe, testified yesterday that she and Zee Frost had been detained at the home of an attorney of the district attorney's office against their will.

Asked whether she had been coerced regarding her testimony, the witness said she "would rather not state."

## RECORDS BROKEN IN CREATING PEERAGES

(By The Associated Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 19. — All records in creating peerages have been broken by the present administration, according to the new issue of "Debrett," a standard work of reference concerning the British aristocracy.

In its 245 years now expiring, 94 peers, 237 baronets and 2,016 knights have been created.

## WOMAN IS SUSPECTED

(By The Associated Press.)

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 19. — Police were searching today for a woman who possessed an expensive outfit of clothing, part of which was found this morning beside the body of Iseal Helmsman, 26, in a vacant lot in Fountain Heights, a fashionable residential section. Residents of the neighborhood told police they heard a shot at 9 o'clock last night. The man's body was discovered at day break.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOY MADE 88 POINTS IN GAME

(By The Associated Press.)

MUNCIE, IND., Jan. 19. — What is thought to be a record for individual scoring in a basketball game was made by Jones, forward on the Fort Recovery, Ohio, high school team, who scored eighty-eight points in a game against the St. Henry, O., Academy team at Fort Recovery, last night. Jones team won 100 to 10.

## SANATORIUM FOR SOLDIERS OPEN ON FEBRUARY 22

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — February 22nd has been set as the date for the opening of Dawson Springs Sanatorium, at Dawson Springs, Ky., built at a cost of \$2,300,000 for the accommodation of 700 former service patients, it was announced today.

Governor Morrow, of Kentucky, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Clifford and Representatives of soldiers' organizations are to take part in the opening exercises, it is stated.

## COLD WAVE COMING

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. — The western cold wave, it was indicated today by the Weather Bureau will reach the Atlantic coast by tomorrow.

Cold wave warnings were issued for the South tomorrow and tomorrow night.

Continued on page 4.