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NO. 3.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Some Happenings of the Week Tersely Told.

Many Items of Interest Concerning Tarheeldom Clipped and Culled From the State Press.

A canning factory with \$10,000 capital will be established at Salisbury.

Already \$700 has been raised for the proposed monument to the Confederate dead at Wadesboro.

The Republican State committee has been called to meet at Greensboro April 5. Senator Pritchard is chairman.

There have now been established in the State 315 rural free libraries. The act of legislature only provides for the State aiding 500 of these libraries.

Governor Aycock will deliver the address at the closing of the public schools in High Point. Rev. Dr. Blackwell, of Wilmington, will preach the sermon.

Chief Justice Nichols, of the supreme court of Louisiana, has accepted an invitation to deliver the address at the meeting of the North Carolina Bar association in Asheville.

George Sadler, colored, has been arrested in Charlotte for swindling a colored aid society of \$7.50. He pretended that he spent the money to incorporate the company.

The store of Reeves & Biles, at New London, Stanley county, was burned last Tuesday night by a fire of unknown origin. The loss is estimated at \$2,500 with \$1,500 insurance.

Col. W. A. Henderson, the Southern Railway attorney will deliver the Memorial Day address at Greensboro, May 10. Col. Henderson commanded a Tennessee regiment in the Confederate army.

R. E. Williamson, a brakeman on the Southern railroad, has brought suit in Greensboro against the company for \$20,000 damages received in a wreck last April. His skull was fractured.

A five-year old son of Mr. Riley Shepperd, of Guilford county, was burned to death Thursday. He was with his father, who was burning brush, and his clothing caught from a burning brush pile.

The Mutual Publishing Company, composed of the Biblical Recorder, the Raleigh Christian Advocate, and the Progressive Farmer, has been organized in Raleigh to publish the papers named.

Rev. Dr. Robt. P. Pell has been elected president of Converse College, Spartanburg, S. C. Dr. Pell is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of the State University. He is a Presbyterian minister and since 1896 has been president of the Presbyterian College for Women at Columbia, S. C.

Mr. Chas. O'Brien, who went from North Carolina to Turkey in January to buy tobacco for the American Tobacco Company, died at Memphis, Turkey, last week. It is reported that he died with smallpox and it is also said that his remains will be sent to his home at Durham for burial.

Congressman Klutz has secured seventeen new rural free delivery routes which go in operation April 1. There are three at Salisbury, four at Concord, three at Statesville, two at Newton, one at China Grove and two at Rockwell. He has thirty-two applications now and is promised an inspector in April.

New Hanover county has just sold \$50,000 of bonds the proceeds to be used in macadamizing the public highways. Orange county will in the near future vote on a proposition to issue \$100,000 of bonds for road improvement, and citizens of Guilford are aiding the road fund of that county by subscription. The movement is slow but good roads are coming along.

The Governor has commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Ed. Morgan, colored, who was to have been hanged at Concord on the 31st. Morgan was convicted of criminally assaulting a young colored girl. Judge Starbuck and Solicitor Webb recommended clemency, as they did not believe the prisoner guilty of criminal assault.

Gertrude Smith, an operative in a Charlotte cotton mill, has been awarded \$250 by a compromise verdict for the loss of a finger in 1898. The case was unique, in that the counsel for the plaintiff argued that for a cotton mill to employ children under 12 was negligence per se, the girl being only 11 years old when the accident occurred.

At Wilmington last week laborers engaged in digging away a hill at Old Brunswick to make way for a building of the Cape Fear Fisheries Company uncovered a skeleton, which is believed to be that of a British soldier killed during or before the Revolutionary war. In the white sand about the skeleton were found a number of brass military buttons of English manufacture during the eighteenth century.

We are informed of a very singular occurrence in Montgomery county. Thirteen months ago the wife of Mr. Richard Bonton, whose residence is at Mt. Gilead, gave birth to twins. The two little ones are living and in excellent condition. One day last week this same mother increased the population of Montgomery county by the birth of triplets—two girls and one boy—all of which are well developed and healthy children.—Wadesboro Courier.

Forty-nine prominent citizens of Aurora met Saturday and held an indignation meeting. They were determined to put down the illicit distilling in that section and all signed a pledge to do all in their power to suppress this illegal work. They are also going to ask the aid of the State, county and national officers to this end. They are certain that John Caton was killed by the moonshiners for serving as a witness against them. A determination to break this up has taken hold of the place.

The body of James Walker, the negro who poisoned the whole family of Dr. David T. Tayloe, of the State Board of Medical Examiners, was found dangling from a limb of a gum tree on the Greenville road just outside of the town limits of Washington, N. C., early Tuesday morning. A man coming to town ran into the body, which hung out over the footpath. He hastened to inform the authorities. Coroner Tayloe was summoned. The coroner impaneled a jury, who brought in a verdict that the negro came to his death by lynching at the hands of unknown persons. The victim was about 19 years old.

Cecil Rhodes Dead.

Cape Town, March 29.—Cecil Rhodes, multi-millionaire and empire-builder, is dead. He died at 5.57 o'clock this afternoon (about 1.20 o'clock Washington time). The end was peaceful.

Mr. Rhodes had been gradually growing weaker for several days, and it was thought early today that the end was near. He slept during the afternoon, but his breathing became more difficult and his strength perceptibly diminished until he passed away.

Mr. Rhodes was stricken with his last illness about three weeks ago. He was never robust and was in feeble health for years. A few days ago the physicians diagnosed the case as agnina pectoris. His heart gradually enlarged, encroaching on the lung space and making respiration difficult. Relief was obtained only by the periodical administration of oxygen.

J. J. Cobb, a citizen of Halifax county, was found dead in the canal at Weldon Monday, with evidences of foul murder and robbery after death.

WILCOX FOUND GUILTY.

To Be Hanged April 25th—Lawyer Aydlett Will Appeal to the Supreme Court. Wilcox Heard the Verdict Without Emotion.

Elizabeth City, N. C., March 22.—James Wilcox was to-night found guilty of the murder of Nellie Cronsey. The jury, after having been out thirty hours, brought in a verdict at 10:30 o'clock of murder in the first degree. The prisoner heard the verdict without apparent emotion.

When the verdict had been received, Judge Jones said:

"It is sadder to me than you, Mr. Wilcox. The jury found the facts; I gave the law. You have had a fair trial. Part of the public were afraid to give it to you. I am informed that the movement in the court house here Friday, when the crowd marched out, was pre-arranged. I hope that such was not the case. If it was true and the offenders brought before me I would send every man, woman and child to jail for contempt. If the move was for a purpose, it was a disgrace to the fair name of the county. I hope it did not influence you, gentlemen, in the least. The judgment of the courts is that the prisoner be removed to jail and be hanged dead by the neck on April 25th."

Lawyer Aydlett for the defense will appeal to the Supreme Court.

At 1:15 o'clock this afternoon the jury came into court and asked for further instructions. The judge reiterated his former charge, telling the jury the finding of the facts was with them. He could give the law only. The jury then retired for further consultation.

There were many expressions of impatience at the tardiness of the jury. Popular feeling was strong and it was feared that a verdict of acquittal would precipitate trouble.

WILCOX NOT SURPRISED.

He Says He Does Not Expect to Hang—His Father Believes Him Innocent.

Elizabeth City, N. C., March 24.—With one month more to live, according to Judge Jones' sentence, Jim Wilcox sat in his steel bound cage this afternoon and talked about his fate. It was the first time he had given an interview since the trial began. Reserved always and cold as chiseled marble, Jim had, through his attorney, kept away the newspaper men. Today after the reserve wore away and he had said that many things printed in the papers were lies, the doomed man talked about his sentence.

He was clad in an undershirt and dark trousers and his feet propped against the bars, were on a level with his head.

"Yes, I expected the verdict," he began, "though most people thought it would be in the second degree. I was prepared for the worst, and as I stood up there and heard the court's sentence of death I was not surprised. I know the feeling against me. It may be for the best, for perhaps I should have fared worse had the jury's verdict been lighter."

"But I do not expect to hang. There are enough things about the trial to give me a new hearing. The fact that so many people left the building when my plea was being closed, and thereby meant to influence the jury, is one ground on which I should have a new trial. The judge told them about that Saturday night."

"A New York detective, who was down here before the body was found, did me a dirty trick. He said he wanted a statement for my good, but I was suspicious and wouldn't go to his hotel as he asked me, and would not go to talk with him, but when I did make a statement in Mr. Aydlett's office the man pretended to take it down, but not one word was printed in the paper he

claimed to represent. What he did print was all against me.

"I have been persecuted by some people. With all the public feeling against me, the crowd influencing the jury by its action, I did not expect a different verdict. I was not so much affected by the sentence, because I expected it and was prepared for the worst."

Asked if he played cards Sunday to while away the time Wilcox asked how could he since there was no one else in the cell.

It was reported about the city that he and other prisoners had a game. A friend of the prisoner who visited him Sunday said he played a game of set back for fun.

Wilcox was questioned about the report that he meant to commit suicide. His words and bearing gave no intimation of a desire of self destruction. He said they had talked about taking away from the cell the knife and fork with which he ate, but he remarked that if he wanted to die soon he could butt out his brains against the bars, but he did not care to die yet.

Wilcox was offered refreshments. He declared he did not smoke cigars, that some of them were lying about the cell now, but he accepted three packages of cigarettes and a bottle of whiskey.

Being told the whiskey was not drugged Jim said he was not afraid, but he had found broken glass in food sent from a restaurant. He refused to eat it.

Wilcox seemingly has no concern for the future. Cold and emotionless but brave always, he talks about the case with no more interest than an outsider.

Former Sheriff Wilcox, Jim's father, says he does not believe Jim knows anything about the crime. He told him the day the verdict was brought to make no sign whether he were convicted or freed. The father says he thinks that if an acquittal had been rendered the accused would have been killed before he got from the court room to jail. He saw the great crowd waiting in the shade outside and he knew they were determined men. Asked about his wife, Mrs. Wilcox, he said she took the sentence better than he expected. He told her as soon as he got home from the court house that the worst had come. He decided that was the better plan.

House Unseats Rhea.

Washington, March 25.—The House today by a majority of 10 unseated John S. Rhea, Democrat, of the Third Kentucky district, and seated in his place J. McKenzie Moss, who was formerly a Democrat, but who is said to be in accord with the Republican party on the dominant issues.

The Republican majority in the House is 43. While only two Republicans, Hanbury and Vreeland, of New York, voted with the Democrats, enough Republicans remained away or declined to vote to reduce the majority to 10. The conclusion of the debate on the case was rather spirited, Mr. Rhea making an eloquent defense of his right to the seat.

Just before Mr. Rhea concluded he severely arraigned Mr. Moss, charging that although he now called himself a Republican two weeks before the election he had registered as a Democrat and had pledged himself, if elected, to go into the Democratic caucus. With impassioned words Mr. Rhea challenged the contestant or his friends to deny this statement. "If it is denied," said he, "I will prove him to be the poor, miserable creature I know him to be."

The French Deputies has voted \$120,000 for France's exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition.

Sidney L. Nixon, an aged Confederate veteran, having passed his 80th year, did at the soldiers' Home at Raleigh Tuesday. He enlisted from Mecklenburg county in Co. C, 30th North Carolina Infantry.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Brief Summary of the Week's Happenings.

Some of the Most Important News of the World Condensed for the Readers of the Herald.

The Rubber Trust has announced a \$12,000,000 three-year loan.

Colorado will expend \$50,000 on a State display at the St. Louis Exposition.

For assault on a little girl, Bill Zigler, colored, was lynched at Troy, Ala., Saturday night.

Eleven living wives are credited to Christian C. Nelson, under arrest at Plattsburg, Mo., for bigamy.

Five trains, carrying 3000 persons seeking Western homes, passed through Kalispel, Mont., Monday.

Four women prisoners broke jail at Fort Scott, Kan., Sunday night, and were recaptured Monday.

Miss Blanche Boise, a disciple of Mrs. Carrie Nation, horsewhipped Mayor Parker, of Topeka, Kan., Monday.

The International Banking Company at New York has increased its capital from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

Holding a stick of dynamite under his chin, John Lester, of Fort Scott, Kan., Monday exploded it and killed himself as he intended.

Because he kissed one of his pupils the School Board of Brazil, Ind., demands the resignation of Professor Muncie, principal of the school.

The special train of President Cassatt, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has made the 90-mile run from New York to Jersey City in 77 minutes.

Washington, D. C., March 24.—The Senate today passed bills appropriating \$5,000 to enclose and beautify the monument on the Moore's Creek battlefield, N. C., and appropriating \$100,000 for a public building at Georgetown, S. C.

A strike is imminent among the United Mine Workers of America, which promises to rival that of 1900, when 140,000 anthracite miners were out for six weeks. A strike also seems inevitable among the textile operatives at Lowell, Mass.

The report of the commission of the United States Marine Hospital service makes known the fact, startling to most people, that there are 278 cases of leprosy in this country, of which Louisiana has considerably more than half, or 155 cases.

The Havana Audiencia Court has given the following sentences in the trial of the Cuban postal embezzlement cases: C. F. W. Neely, 10 years' imprisonment and fine of \$56,701; W. H. Reaves, 10 years' imprisonment and fine of \$35,516; E. G. Rathbone, 10 years' imprisonment and fine of \$35,324.

Hon. Henry Watterson, of Kentucky, made a speech Monday night in Washington City, at the banquet of the Virginia Democratic Association, in which he characterized President Roosevelt as "the man on horseback, affecting the simplicity of the cowboy, with the sentiments and ambitions, if not the talents, of a Diaz."

Hundreds of farmers in the Ozark hills of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas, whose crops failed during last summer's droughts, are living in a desperately poor way on short rations. It is estimated that probably 10 per cent. of the population in the district has felt the pangs of hunger this winter. Offers of aid have been refused. The chief distress now comes from a lack of seed for the spring planting. This is being relieved by the distribution of seed purchased by Governor of Arkansas, with money personally borrowed from the banks.

WRECK ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Mail Train From New Orleans Struck By a Rock Slide.

Washington, March 23.—Train No. 38 of the Southern Railway, northbound from New Orleans to Washington and known as the Washington and Southwestern Vestibuled Limited, ran into a rockslide near Covesville, twelve miles south of Charlottesville, Va., at 3:50 this morning and was badly wrecked.

The Pullman porter and an unknown man were killed, and ten postal clerks were seriously injured, several possibly fatally. The wreck took fire from the engine and six of the nine coaches composing the train were totally destroyed. Six tons of mail, a considerable part of it registered, were burned. The track is still blocked, although wrecking crews from the nearest points have been working since daylight in removing the tons of earth and rock.

The Washington and Southwestern was due to arrive at Charlottesville at 3:37 this morning and was nearly half an hour behind time when the accident occurred. The slide came without warning, crushing the mail and baggage cars and two passenger coaches. The passengers in the demolished cars escaped injury. Nicholas Lawn, the colored Pullman porter, is missing, and was probably buried in the slide. The body of an unknown man, probably a tramp, was taken from beneath the wreck of the baggage car.

HE WAS A WOMAN.

A Sensation Attended the Death of George Green, in Petersburg, Va.

Petersburg, Va., March 23.—The death here today of George Green divulged a strange mystery, the secret of which has been kept many years.

The discovery caused a decided sensation. Thirty-five years ago, in Erie, Pa., George Green married a widow named Mrs. John Biddes, who has children by her first marriage, now living in that city. The couple drifted about until finally they bought and cultivated a cotton plantation near Raleigh, N. C. A few months ago the couple moved here to live with relatives and Green obtained work in a cotton factory. He was taken ill and died today, and in the preparation of the body the startling discovery was made that Green was a woman.

Green was 74 years old and was one of triplets. As far as known the deceased wore male attire. Though somewhat effeminate in appearance there was never any suspicion as to his or her sex. The widow who positively refused to be seen has said that at the time of her marriage she believed she was marrying a man. The mistake was not discovered until afterwards, and she never told any one of the fact. They kept the secret as a matter of pride. During all the years of their companionship they lived to all outward view happily and contented together and Green's sex was not known to his closest relatives, who still adhere to the claim of his manhood.

The case is a very remarkable one and causes wide and excited comment and no one, in the absence of any statement from Mrs. Green, seems able to give any satisfactory statement about the secret so long concealed in the hearts of this couple or the reason why in the garb of man, this woman should practice such deception as to marry. The funeral will be tomorrow and the burial will be with the rights of the Catholic church. It is believed that later developments will throw some light on the mystery.

The State has chartered the Knob's Creek Improvement Company of Elizabeth City, capital \$15,000; the Mt. Airy Mantel and Table Company, capital \$10,000; the Mecklenburg Fair Association at Charlotte, capital \$10,000.