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NO. 49

SEA SWALLOWS GREAT LINER.

White Star Steamship Republic Rammied and Sunk in a Heavy Fog. All on Board Saved.

Boston, Jan. 23.—Wounded to the death in a collision in a heavy fog early this morning, the great White Star Liner Republic, one of the favorite ships of American tourists, as well as one of the most palatial that ever flew the British flag, had her burial at 10 o'clock tonight in the north Atlantic—the great, haunted graveyard of the sea.

Not a life was lost by the disaster of the Republic. Many hours before she sank all of her passengers had been taken off by the Italian Liner Florida, the other victim of the collision, which vessel stood by to the end, and just before the Republic sank, took officers and crew aboard. Early tomorrow morning she will land them at New York, from which port they sailed yesterday. The Republic was bound for Mediterranean ports and carried 761 passengers, of whom about 250 were American tourists. The rest were Italians returning to their native land.

It was by most merciful circumstances that the wreck of the Republic did not become one of the most appalling tragedies of the deep. She suffered by that unavoidable thing—a collision in a fog. Fortunately she was but 26 miles from land—Nantucket Point—was in the path of traffic, and the vessel that rammed her was able to give aid.

From the moment that the Republic was struck amidships by the Florida the danger that she would perish was apparent. The first rush of water flooded her engine room and made her helpless. Then, with all bulkheads closed, she lay, depending on her water-tight compartments. These might hold her for hours—possibly for days. How long was a matter of conjecture all through the day and until they gave way before the strain at 9 o'clock tonight.

The Republic was equipped with wireless telegraphy, and hardly had the shock of the collision passed when her call for help went out to all vessels and shore stations that it might reach. The engines were stopped and the dynamos dead, but storage batteries had been provided, and as long as they lasted the wireless operator of the Republic continued to send out the call—"C. Q. D."—the ambulance summons of the sea.

Fire at Smithfield Depot.

Last Saturday night about nine o'clock the fire bell here rang and it was found that the fire was at the depot. It seems that a spark from an engine passing set fire to some cotton on the platform. There was a large lot of cotton there and it was feared that a great fire had begun, but before the fire did much burning the bales which had caught fire had been removed across the track of the railroad. By the free use of water only six bales were damaged.

Mrs. James W. Benson Entertains.

Benson, N. C., Jan. 25.—A most delightful social event was enjoyed last Thursday afternoon from four to six o'clock, given in honor of Mrs. Edwin Boykin, of Norfolk, Va., and Miss Margaret Neal, of Richmond, Va., and many other friends. The library and dining room were delightfully decorated with ferns and palms. Delightful music was rendered during the evening. Dainty and delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. James Benson and Miss Bruton, of Fayetteville.

Hears Sentence and Dies.

Hamilton, O., Jan. 18.—As Judge Murphy today sentenced "Buck" Cottongame, a Kentucky feudist, to the penitentiary for life for the murder of Parrish Arnet, the father of Arnet fell dead in the Court room. Arnet accused Cottongame of wrecking his home, and Cottongame killed him.

The fee system is doomed. It will linger in some places a few years longer, but the principle that the public should know how much every public officer receives and from whom it is received is one that will destroy the fee system, root and branch.—News and Observer.

Three cases of leprosy have been found to exist in San Antonio, Tex.

SELMA NEWS.

Gathered and Reported by Our Regular Correspondent.

Selma, Jan. 28.—Mr. Jesse Daugherty is building a house on Pollock street for Mr. Ellis Waddell.

Mr. Thos. Newland, of Lenoir, spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. W. A. Green.

Capt. Chapin was here Wednesday to look after the camp for the convicts who are to begin work for the chemical company on February 1st.

Mr. W. W. Wynne is here on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. N. E. Edgerton.

Mrs. M. C. Winston and Miss Lizzie are on a visit to Dr. Avera of Wake county.

Rev. W. H. Puckett went to Princeton Wednesday.

Mr. M. C. Winston spent a few days in Charlotte last week.

There is to be a change in the management of the Merchants Hotel. Mr. W. H. Stallings has bought it and will have it put in first class order and will run it for the benefit of the traveling public. Mrs. W. T. Peacock will be housekeeper.

Bricklaying has begun on the Ethel Cotton Mills.

Mrs. L. H. Allred and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Edgerton left Wednesday for Spring Hope to attend the marriage of their sister.

CLAYTON NEWS.

With cotton around the ten cent mark, our farmer friends are feeling pretty good. Fortunately a good number of them held for ten cents.

The much spoken of new street is just about a reality. The stores have been moved out of the way and the street is being put in passable order as fast as can be.

Mrs. Ashley Horne, Mrs. A. Sam White, Mrs. McCullers, Mrs. Robert Poole, Miss Gertrude Landis and others from here went up to hear Mm. Calve sing on Monday evening.

Hon. Ashley Horne left Monday afternoon for Greensboro on business.

The charter of the Liberty Cotton Mills has been amended to allow some changes in the working of the mills.

Several new residences are to be erected here soon. Among them is one for Mr. Zeb V. Stephenson.

We note a remarkable difference in the melodies which nightly proceed from the band headquarters. We infer that they are "catching on."

William Smith, colored, alias Frog Pulley, gave chief Ellis a very strenuous time last Friday night. Chief having reason to believe that Frog was at the home of Henry Sanders for the night, proceeded thereto to effect his arrest. When he went in to search the house, Frog was in a shed room where there was no light.

When chief advanced, Frog jumped at him and grabbed his pistol wrenching it from his hand. In the scuffle that ensued, Frog shot at chief but missed him, then chief overpowered him, took the pistol and escorted Frog to the lock-up. On Saturday he stood trial before 'squire Gully and was remanded to jail to await the coming term of Superior court.

Mr. J. H. Wood, one of the very best truckers of this section left on display at Mr. Joe Barnes' store, one of the biggest turnips we have seen for some time. This was of the cow horn variety and weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces. The seed were purchased from the Barnes-Carroll Co. in August.

Messrs J. D. Smith, Jesse W. Hillard and Riley R. Gully went to Raleigh Wednesday afternoon. Clayton, Jan. 28.

George Manuel in Jail.

George Manuel, a negro, who has been for some time running a blind tiger business in Smithfield, and who is the worst probably in the county at that business, was tried at Raleigh last week in the Federal court and sentenced to four months confinement in Smithfield jail. That was very light punishment for such a transgressor of the law and for a negro who does not want to work and will fare about as well in jail as at home. No doubt he is inconvenienced but a little except in the fact that he now misses his several drinks each day. Such sentences will never stop violation of laws of any kind.

NEVER READ A NEWSPAPER.

Eighth Juror in the Box for Trial of Colonel Cooper.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 26.—When the second venire of 500 talesmen was exhausted today without the completion of the jury to try Col. Duncan R. Cooper, Robin Cooper and John D. Sharp for the slaying of former Senator E. W. Carmack, Judge Hart announced that he would devote tomorrow to the hearing of charges of intoxication against Jurors Leigh and Jackson. Meantime, he drew another venire of 500 names and the sheriff is summoning them for service Friday.

H. P. Jackson, a blacksmith, 57 years old, who has not read a newspaper for 28 years, was accepted as juror No. 8. S. M. Hyde, a farmer, 48 years old, who was opposed to capital punishment, was accepted as juror No. 9.

While there are now nine men in the box, charges are pending against two of them. The failure of counsel to complete the jury from the first 1,000 talesmen, together with the fact that the number already selected may be reduced by the court, makes it extremely important that 12 men will be sworn in before sometime next week.

THE NEWS IN BENSON.

Happenings of Interest in and Around This Thriving Little Burg.

Benson, Jan. 28.—Mr. E. F. Moore made a business trip to Raleigh Wednesday.

Capt. Jernigan left Wednesday for Burlington and Greensboro to visit relatives.

Mrs. Fred Royal, of Emporia, Va., is visiting relatives in town.

Miss Prilla Gilbert, of near New-Lenon Grove, came to town Monday to enter Benson High School.

Rev. D. F. Putnam preached able sermons to large audiences at Baptist church here Sunday morning and night.

Among the new arrivals in town is a girl at Mr. J. L. Fiehlman's and a boy at the home of Mr. J. E. Wall.

We regret very much to note that Rev. D. F. Putnam has resigned as pastor of the Benson Baptist church and will go to Nashville and Spring Hope where he has accepted a call.

The Pastors' and Laymen's Conference of the Johnston County Missionary Baptist Association will be held with the church at Benson beginning Friday, January 29, and continuing through Saturday and Sunday. Quite a large crowd is expected.

The following cases have been disposed of in Mayor Britt's court this week. Jule Lee, colored, was up for public nuisance and fined \$1.00 and cost; R. H. McLamb, drunk, fined \$2.00 and cost; W. F. Parrish, drunk fined \$2.00 and cost.

Traction Engines and Public Roads.

Petitions are now being circulated over Smithfield township for signers asking that a law be passed by the Legislature to keep traction engines off the public roads of the township. The petitioners are well wishers to Messrs Rand & Lawrence and any others who own or may own engines but they do not want the roads torn up. Any person who will go over the roads traveled by the engine operated in this township will see what is being done to them. We hear that it is expected to begin hauling logs soon on the Clayton road four miles from Smithfield. The Harper hill and the Grantham hill on this road were known for many years as the worst places between Raleigh and the Atlantic ocean, but since they were graded and graveled they have become alright. The people do not want them torn up again. Besides many do not believe they could meet the traction engine on the embankment just beyond the river. Personally the writer feels sure he should have to trade horses or go by the bridge near Selma. But the main reason for opposing traction engines is the fact that the roads of the township are not strong enough for the engines to run over them. There is too much soft dirt and mud. The engine mashes the roads all out of shape and makes them unfit for vehicles. Our opinion is that this is the wrong part of the world for traction engines. We say that candidly without intending any harm to anybody or any enterprise.

Mr. Holt Writes About the Matter.

The readers of this paper will remember that in the summer of 1906, a movement was inaugurated with the object in view of either reducing the fees of the four leading County officers, or of placing the said officers upon salaries. This agitation assumed such wide-spread proportions that it gave great concern to the office holders of the County at that time, so much so in fact, that when the County Convention met in Smithfield to nominate County officers and to pass upon this question of a salary system, the officers and their friends had prepared a measure of a compromise nature reducing the fees of the several officers to a certain extent, but not as comprehensive in its reduction as a great many at that time thought desirable. However, it was accepted by a majority of the Convention as a solution of the difficulty, and it was thought at that time by the hundreds of Democrats throughout the County who favored the salary plan, that this measure was acceptable to the in-coming County officers, and that it was offered in good faith by the opponents of the salary plan as a sincere effort on their part to meet us half way in arriving at a solution of the question. After passing upon this matter, the Convention proceeded to nominate the four County officers who have since held, and are now holding the said offices, and who have been charging reduced fees that were provided for in the measure above referred to.

This measure has, so far as I am informed, given absolute satisfaction to the tax payers of the county. It has undoubtedly resulted in the saving of quite a sum of money by all classes of people. By reducing the fees in probating and recording Mortgage Deeds and other papers, it has resulted in a great saving to the poor man, while by reducing the fees in the Sheriff's office and Treasurer's office, along with certain fees in the Register's and Clerk's offices, it has helped the tax payers of the County, thereby including both the rich and the poor. It was an economic measure; it was a Democratic measure, and it was a measure that while not as complete or radical as the writer would have liked, yet it showed a disposition on the part of the opponents of the salary system to accede to the desires of the people, and to meet them half way in their demands for reasonable reforms. Since that time I have heard no criticism of the measure, and not until a few days ago did I know, or in fact did 99-100ths of the Democrats of the County know, but that the measure was giving absolute satisfaction to every one; but one day last week, Clerk of the Court, W. S. Stevens, and Register of Deeds, S. T. Honeycutt, along with a number, not exceeding six, of other Democrats of the County, went up to Raleigh and lobbied a bill through the House repealing this law of 1907 providing for the reduction of the fees, and placing the fees of the officers upon the old excessive basis that prevailed prior to 1907. Since that time they made another trip to Raleigh, and on the day of their last visit to the Capitol, the same bill was passed through the Senate, and it is now a law, in effect at the present time, that the county officers of Johnston County are allowed to charge the old fees that were charged fifteen years ago when the volume of business in their respective offices amounted to not more than 50 per cent. of what it does at present.

It is a fact that at least two of the officers of Johnston County, and not more than six or eight Democrats have gotten together and secured the passage of a bill repealing an important measure that received nearly 68 votes out of a total of 103 in an open Democratic Convention, while those casting the other 35 votes accepted it and were satisfied with it. It is a fact that this measure that was offered by the old County officers, one of whom is an officer at present, and all of whom endorsed the measure, has been repudiated, and these officers, without consulting the people of Johnston County, have set aside their own measure, which measure, as I have stated before, was a compromise. It seems to me that the dictates of fair play, not to speak of party policy or harmony, would have prevented them from as-

sassinating their own measure in the manner they did.

In this connection however, it is well to state that while the opponents of the salary system offered this measure as a compromise, that still they have been aggrieved all along that the people of Johnston County saw fit to reduce their fees in the least, and even from the date of that County Convention, which adopted their compromise measure, the County officers, or some of them, have been harboring a design to bring about the annulling of that law. During the special session of the Legislature of 1908, Representative Jones introduced a bill in reference to the fees of the Sheriff of Johnston County, regulating a conflict of the general State law and the Act of 1807. Showing that he was opposed to the idea of reducing such fees, Clerk of the Court, Mr. W. S. Stevens, wrote the following letter to Mr. Charles U. Harris, at that time a Representative in the Legislature from Wake County:

Smithfield, N. C., Jan. 25, 1908. Mr. C. U. Harris,

House of Representatives.

My Dear Sir:—I want you to block that bill of Representative George L. Jones reducing fees of officers down here. There was an editorial in The Herald this week in reference to it which shows that it is all uncalled for so get your friends in the House to help you to stop the thing. I do not believe there is any demand whatever for such a bill to be there. In fact, I don't know of any one at all who is asking for it. Mr. Jones has been in my office this evening and I had a long talk with him and I don't think he especially cares to push his bill. Charlie, stop this bill if you can. We want no such legislation if it can be helped.

Yours truly,

W. S. STEVENS.

This letter, of which the above is a true copy, shows conclusively the spirit that has existed all along and that was behind this recent movement which resulted in the repealing of the whole measure.

I repeat that it seems that a handful of men have set at naught the desires of the Democracy of Johnston County; that they have secured the repealing of an important measure without consulting the people. I on the other hand, have seemingly tried to conceal their movements. I say further that the Register of Deeds has been away from his office pushing this measure through the Legislature, leaving his office in the charge of a young lady, who while very capable in many respects, is not supposed to be capable of giving the service that the people of Johnston County reasonably expect from the officer whom they elect to this office. I say again, that the office of the Clerk of the Court of Johnston County has been closed, and that not even a Deputy was present to transact the business for the public of the County, while the Clerk of the Court was in Raleigh securing the enactment of a measure that was designed to set at naught the wishes of nine-tenths of the Democracy of Johnston County.

I write this letter and make this statement because of the fact that I have been designated as the originator and the prime mover of the agitation to place the County officers upon a salary basis, or at least to bring about a reduction in their fees. I do not deserve this distinctive honor; but since the leaders of the opposition have seen fit to accord to me this great honor, and at the same time, have seen fit to impugn my motives and to question my sincerity in the matter, I shall accept the honor and the implied challenge, and say to them that their efforts to repudiate their own measure and to ignore the wishes of the assembled Democracy of Johnston County shall not go disregarded.

It is but proper that the general public should understand who is responsible for this legislation. Hence this letter.

S. S. HOLT.

Smithfield, N. C., Jan. 26, 1909.

Brave Fire Laddies.

often receive severe burns, putting out fires, then use Bucklen's Arnica Salve and forget them. It soon drives out pain. For Burns, Scalds, Wounds, Cuts and Bruises its earth's greatest healer. Quickly cures Skin Eruptions, Old Sores, Boils, Ulcers, Felons; best Pile cure made. Relief is instant. 25c at Hood Bros.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The work of the General Assembly goes steadily on. A number of bills are introduced each day; but so far very few bills have been passed that affect the whole State. A large per cent. of the measures introduced and passed are of a local nature, and affect only the Counties and Towns and communities for which they have been passed.

The bill to which reference was made last week repealing the law of 1907, reducing fees of County officials of Johnston county, has passed both the Senate and House, passing the Senate last Monday. This bill, which is now law, increases the fees on probating and registering certain papers in this county.

Representative Myatt introduced a bill in the House Wednesday, "to permit the people of Johnston County to manufacture and sell wine and brandy from fruits of their own raising."

The warmest discussion in the House this week has been over the bill putting solicitors of the several districts upon a salary basis instead of fees. The bill, fixing the salary at \$2,250 per year, passed the second reading of the House Tuesday, and came up final disposal Wednesday. After much discussion and the voting down of several amendments, when the bill came up upon its third reading, it was killed by a vote of 46 to 62. This does not mean that the bill is killed altogether, as the Senate Judiciary Committee will recommend the passage of the Blow-Ormond bill, abolishing the fee system and fixing the salaries of Solicitors at \$2,500 per year.

The Senate has passed a bill allowing Superior Court Judges extra pay at the rate of \$100.00 per week for special terms of Courts.

ARCHER NEWS.

Miss Leta Lassiter spent last week with relatives in Raleigh.

Representative J. W. Barnes came home Friday sick, but was able to return Monday.

We received a copy of the Clayton Enterprise Monday. Clayton is to be congratulated on its paper which is clean, neat and newsy. It merits the support of the people.

Mr. H. N. Batton, our energetic photographer, made a business trip to Raleigh Saturday.

Mr. George Hinton is erecting a large barn and stables at his place near here.

The advance in the price of cotton is causing a great many of our people to sell.

As we have stated many times before we will appreciate any item of importance that occurs in the community and will send them in each week for publication.

S. L. W.

Jan. 26.

PRINCETON ITEMS.

Miss Maude Strickland, of near Smithfield, visited Miss Julia Sanders and relatives in town Sunday.

There will be a box party at the Baptist church on the night of February 18 for benefit of the church. Every body invited.

James H. Howell left Monday for Lenoir on business.

Mrs. G. C. Farthing, of Durham, visited her father, Capt. Raiford, and relatives last week.

Married by J. D. Finlayson, J. P., Miss Ethel Holt to Eddie Bagley on the night of the 20 at Eugene Holt's. This was an up-to-date colored folks' wedding. The bride and bridesmaids were all dressed in white silk. Harvard Whitley played Mendleson's wedding march.

We are sorry to learn that our friend, W. C. Massey, is quite sick at N. Y. Wiggs'. He was an inmate of the Soldiers Home, and came there on a visit.

J. D. F.

Jan. 26.

Drunken Juror Put Out.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 28.—The 3rd session of the Carmack-Cooper trial was sprang this morning when Juror Jim Leigh was thrown out of the juror box by Judge Hart on the charge of drunkenness. District Attorney held the juror and will swear a warrant against him. Judge Ward said the juror had denied being drunk before getting on the jury.