

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 39

SMITHFIELD, N. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1920.

NUMBER 94

CONGRESS HOLDS BRIEF SESSION

Harding Answers to Roll And Makes Brief Speech —Many New Bills.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Congress reconvened today with the customary brief and routine opening sessions which were attended by great crowds and marked by an address, in the Senate, by President-elect Harding as a unique and historic feature. Senator Harding took his seat, answered his name when the Senate roll was called and made a brief address from the rostrum.

Other features of the opening of the third and final session of the Sixty-sixth Congress, were receipt of annual appropriations estimates aggregating \$4,653,000,000 and introduction in the House of an unusual volume of new bills and resolutions. Senators held up their bills until tomorrow in accordance with the custom of limiting the first day to formal convocation.

More than 350 new bills and resolutions were dropped into the House hopper today and a flood of similar proportions is expected tomorrow in the Senate. The new House measures dealt with almost every conceivable subject, including proposals for repeal of war laws, for appropriations of millions of dollars for a myriad of purposes, pensions and many measures for farmer's relief.

CLAYTON NEWS

Clayton, Dec. 4.—Miss La Rue Williams, of Princeton, was the guest of friends here for a few hours today.

Miss Gladys Barbour will leave tomorrow morning for a few days at Roanoke Rapids.

Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Thrift and family have arrived in town from their old home at Graham. Mr. Thrift will succeed Mr. Hinson as pastor of the Methodist church here. We welcome them to our town and hope for them success and happiness.

Mr. P. A. Wallace spent a few days this week in Baltimore buying goods.

Mr. S. G. Phillips who has had his shoe shop in the building joining the Barnes-Duncan store will on Monday move to the old Clayton Bank Building. At this place he can better serve the public as he needed more room for the new machinery he has recently added.

Mrs. J. W. Pittman of Oxford is here for a few days.

The young folks of Clayton are working very hard for a minstrel show to be given here at a very early date. Mills quartette and a guitar specialists from Raleigh will assist the home talent and this promises to be one of the best entertainments ever held in our town. Proceeds go to the Organ Fund of the Baptist church.

On Thursday afternoon about three o'clock, John William the infant baby of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Turley died. He was about four months old and had only been sick for a few days.

Mrs. C. W. Horne entertained the Halycon club at her home, "Boxborough Hall" Wednesday afternoon from three to five o'clock.

The Ladies circle No. 6, of the Baptist church were very delighted at the results of the dinners they served at Barnes-Duncan Company's store on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The town people enjoyed the good eats and have been very liberal in this, also the Bazaar which was held at the same time in the building joining Clayton Banking Co. The proceeds go to the Organ Fund of the Baptist church.

Fifty Millions in Bets

Baltimore, Dec. 2.—The stupendous sum of \$50,000,000 or more passed through the betting machines of the four big Maryland racetracks during the season of 110 days just ended, according to figures obtained today.

The new State Racing Commission has not yet made its report to the Government on the first six months of its operation, covering only the autumn meetings, but the figures given are regarded by persons in close touch with racing affairs as being, if anything, under the real amount.—Philadelphia Record.

PRES. BANK COATS SHOOTS HIMSELF

Bank Insolvent; Gives Over Entire Property Including Insurance

Dunn, Dec. 6.—Telling an eloquent but tragic story of his vain fight to stave off the closing of his bank, the dead body of H. T. Patterson, president of the Bank of Coats, Coats, N. C., was found in a barn behind his home this morning. He killed himself, according to the coroner's verdict, by firing a revolver bullet thru his heart. A young son, engaged in the morning chores about the home, found the body shortly after 8 o'clock. It was resting in a little pool of blood with the weapon lying between his feet. It is not known what time the tragedy occurred. Mr. Patterson arose early this morning and left the house but his wife did not suspect anything wrong until his failure to come to breakfast.

The Bank of Coats was closed Saturday afternoon when it was learned that it was insolvent. Mr. Patterson sacrificed his entire private fortune in an effort to save the institution, and is said to have assigned all of his life insurance for the same purpose. The insurance is believed to be at least \$65,000. There has been no intimation of a shortage of the dead man's accounts. Worry over the condition of his institution and the loss the failure would bring to those who had entrusted their funds to his keeping, is assigned as the reason for his action.—Greensboro News.

LIVING COSTS WILL DROP

Predicts New Year Will See Prices Down. Business Men Must Prepare for New Era. People Are Refusing to Buy at High Prices.

Washington, December 3.—Practically every class of business or agricultural enterprise which has been hit by the drop in prices has appealed to the government at Washington for aid in some form or other. And while proposals for relief are being urged upon Congress through the political influences of the various business groups affected, the executive branch of the government has taken a determined position, viz., that intervention by the government to stop the fall in prices means a maintenance of the high cost of living.

The government view is that business of all kinds had been warned repeatedly since the armistice that a crash in high prices was coming sooner or later and that caution should be exercised. Those who refused to heed the admonition and have been holding their goods for high prices ignoring the downward march of prices are suffering the consequences. Opinion in government circles inclines to the view that in most commodities the bottom has been reached in the price curve but that the consumer has not felt the drop in prices materially because so many retailers have naturally enough sought to get rid of their goods at prices somewhere near their original cost.

Nobody in the government blames the retailer for his human desire to get back what he paid for goods on his shelves but at the same time officials point to the strike that the consumer himself initiated against high prices. For months people have been refusing to buy until prices came down to reasonable levels. Government officials think the Christmas shopping will naturally help out the retailer in clearing his shelves for new purchases after the first of the year.

In order to promote business next year, buying is expected to be resumed after New Year with intensity yet with conservatism. Manufacturers who have had orders cancelled because retailers were holding their goods in a vain effort to compel the consumer to buy are expected to adjust their prices to fit the new conditions and the prediction here is that the cost of living will come down even more in the first months of 1921 than ever before.—David Lawrence in Greensboro News.

"Have we everything here? What is in the small box?" "The wardrobe." "And in the large one?" "Our paper money!"—Lustige Blatter, Berlin.

WORK OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Officers for New Term Sworn In—New Supt. County Home

The County Commissioners met in regular session here yesterday and reorganized the board for the coming two years, by electing Mr. D. B. Oliver, of Pine Level, Chairman. The board is composed of the following: D. B. Oliver, H. M. Barbour, J. Willis Creech, W. H. Upchurch and P. B. Chamblee. Mr. H. M. Barbour of Cleveland township is a new member all others having served before.

The following county officers were sworn in and filed their bonds: W. T. Adams, Register of Deeds; J. A. Keen, Auditor; W. J. Massey, sheriff; R. Lambert, county surveyor. The other officers who were elected will qualify later.

The First National Bank of this city was named as financial agent for the county. Mr. Ed S. Abell was appointed county attorney.

A change was made in the management of the County Home. Mr. G. N. Hinton who has been in charge for several years will be succeeded by Mr. J. O. Stephenson. He is elected for a term of two years which will begin January 1, 1921.

The County Commissioners decided to re-establish the work of a finance committee who will look over the finances of the county quarterly and report to the commissioners. The following were named on the committee, D. B. Oliver, Sam T. Honeycutt, and Charles M. Wilson.

Of the constables who were elected in November, the following were sworn in and gave their bonds yesterday: L. H. McLamb, Banner; W. F. Cook, Wilders; Charles E. Edwards, Boon Hill; W. T. Johnson, Cleveland; J. O. Hinton, Oneals; L. H. Johnson, Ingrams; A. H. Morgan, Meadow; J. H. Marshburn, Bentonville.

SERIOUS CUTTING AFFRAY IN TOWN OF FOUR OAKS.

Laura Edwards, Colored, Becomes Enraged Over Talk as to Difference Between Whites and Negroes and Takes Revenge on Mr. Preston Allen—She is Now in the County Boarding House Here.

Saturday night, December 4th, there was some talk in Four Oaks as to the difference between white people and negroes. Laura Edwards, a negro woman about 25 years old became greatly enraged at the talk and made two heavy strokes with a knife or razor on Mr. Preston Allen who lives on the Charley Woodall farm about three miles from Four Oaks. She tried to cut Mr. Allen's throat but missed her aim and made a deep gash across his left shoulder. The next stroke took the knife into his body under the left arm. He was taken home and is still in bed under the care of a doctor.

The case aroused considerable race feeling and for awhile it seemed there might be trouble between the races. Three car loads of negroes left the town to await on the highway for the constable who was to bring the negro woman to jail. The negro woman who had been arrested was taken through Elevation township a circuitous route to Smithfield. She was brought here and lodged in jail without any further trouble. The trial was set for today but Mr. Allen is not able to be here.

Greeks Vote for Constantine

Athens, Greece, Dec. 5.—The plebiscite held today has shown an overwhelming majority in favor of the return of former King Constantine to the Greek throne.

In face of the expressed opposition of the allied governments the question was put squarely before the Greek people and the indications prior to the balloting were that the Greeks would return Constantine who is now in Switzerland.

"Jack, how is it that you never bring any good marks home from school?" "Oh, papa, there are such a lot of us that when my turn comes there are none left."—Edinburgh Scotsman.

CITIZENS NAT. BANK MAKES A CHANGE

W. M. Sanders Resigns As President; N. B. Grantham Elected His Successor

On account of the condition of his health, Mr. W. M. Sanders, last week, sold a part of his stock in the Citizens National Bank of this city to Mr. N. B. Grantham and Mr. W. Austin. A directors meeting was held yesterday, and Mr. Sanders resigned as president of the bank. Mr. N. B. Grantham was chosen as his successor, and Messrs Grantham and Austin were added to the list of directors, and made members of the finance committee. Mr. F. H. Parrish is Vice-President of the Bank and Mr. H. C. Cooper is cashier. The assistant cashier is Mr. F. C. Sweeney.

The retiring president, Mr. Sanders in resigning said that while quitting the active management of the bank, he will co-operate to the fullest extent for the continued success of the institution. The recent bank statement published in these columns show the condition of this bank to be as good as any in North Carolina. This speaks well for the men who have had it in charge. Mr. Sanders who has been president since its establishment has pursued a policy which meant for efficiency and success. Mr. H. C. Cooper, the cashier, has done much for the bank since coming here a few months ago. He is the son of the newly elected Lieutenant Governor, W. B. Cooper, of Wilmington. He is showing the same rare business judgment and ability which has characterized his father's business career, and which has given him such marked success.

The new president, Mr. N. B. Grantham, is known as one of the best business men in the county, and undoubtedly the Bank will go ahead under the very best business management.

GOLDSBORO IS QUIET AFTER ATTACK ON COURT HOUSE.

Mob Attacked Court House in Effort To Lynch Five Negroes Being Tried for Murder of Herman Jones. Two Get First Degree Murder.

Everything was quiet Friday after an attack on the Wayne County Courthouse Thursday night by a mob of from 100 to 200 armed men bent on lynching five negroes charged with the murder of Herman Jones, country merchant of Wayne county, who was shot to death two weeks ago.

A hundred state troops soon arrived to restore order, and the trial of the negroes proceeded. The jury, after two and half hours consideration, returned a verdict of first degree murder for two of the negroes, and second degree murder for the other three. Judge Devin passed the sentence of death on them to be done in Raleigh on January 7. Twenty years of hard labor was imposed upon the other three.

Herbert Futrell, who was said to be one of the leaders of the mob, was shot and slightly wounded on the night of the attack. He was reported as resting well, and will likely be brought to trial as soon as he is able.

Judge Devin indicated that the next step would be the bringing to account the men who led the attack upon the jail. Desultory firing, it is said was heard in the vicinity of the court until after three o'clock Friday morning, and the windows on one side of the Courthouse were practically all broken.

Watchman Stops Burglars

Bailey, Dec. 3.—F. R. Poole, town night watchman, interrupted burglars in their work of breaking into the store of Tomlinson & Co., early yesterday morning and they left behind a car and their tools. They fired several shots at Poole, and one of the bullets went through his raincoat but left him unscathed.—News and Observer.

No Recreation There.

"What be you fishin' fer, mister?" "Oh, only for recreation." "Well, you won't catch any there; there be only minnows and eels in that pond."

N. C. DEMOCRAT ASS'T SEC. TREAS.

A. W. McLean Appointed To Serve Remaining Three Months

Washington, D. C., Dec. 4.—Angus Wilton McLean, of Lumberton, Democratic national committeeman from North Carolina and director of the war finance corporation, was appointed today by the President as assistant secretary of the treasury. The appointment surprised Washington as Mr. McLean was not mentioned for the place.

Mr. McLean took the oath this afternoon and immediately entered on his new duties. He succeeded J. M. Shouse, of Kansas, who resigned about two months ago to resume the practice of law. Mr. Shouse was a member of the house from Kansas when appointed.

It is understood that the appointment of Mr. McLean was made upon the recommendation of Secretary Houston, with whom the North Carolina man has been associated while acting as director of the war finance corporation. Mr. McLean will continue to act in the latter capacity, it is said, as the duties will not conflict and the finance corporation has practically been inoperative during the past year.

Though the Senate Republicans have put a virtual embargo on all Wilson appointments for the remainder of his term it is likely that Mr. McLean will be confirmed. His tenure of office, naturally will be for only three months and while the senate is expected to hold up all Wilson appointments that might extend beyond the present administration the belief of Mr. McLean's friends here is that the senate may make an exception in his case.—Theodore Tiller in Greensboro News.

MURDERER KILLS HIMSELF

Hangs Himself in Jail After Killing His Wife. First Attempt to Kill Himself Frustrated by Other Prisoners. Act of Remorse.

Within twenty-four hours after he had killed his wife in a period of drunken dementia, Charles E. Davis, properous farmer of New Light township, in Wake county, hanged himself by his undershirt in his cell in the Wake county jail yesterday morning.

Davis who was placed in the jail Monday morning, did not recover from his stupor sufficiently to realize that his wife was dead until late Tuesday afternoon. When informed of the tragedy by Jailer Jordan, Davis expressed great surprise and remorse. Within a few hours he attempted to hang himself by his suspenders, but this attempt was frustrated by other prisoners.

At the first moment he was free from the surveillance of the four men detailed by Jailer Jordan to furnish him medicine and watch him, he hitched his undershirt to the bars of his cell at about the height of his waist, and tying the garment around his neck, lowered his body until he was in an almost prone position. The body was found by Charlie Patterson, a prisoner, at 3:15 yesterday morning.

The coroner's jury yesterday expressly exonerated Jordan of negligence in connection with Davis' death. Sam P. Shadrick, a former inmate of the State Hospital for the Insane who also shot his wife at his home near Wake Forest Monday morning, is being closely watched to prevent a similar occurrence.

"I would do the same thing if I had nerve enough," was Shadrick's statement yesterday morning, but he afterwards denied any intent to commit suicide.

Davis' body will be removed to his home from a local undertaking establishment today and will be buried in the family burying ground this afternoon at 1 o'clock.—News and Observer, December 2nd.

December drops no weak relenting tear—

By our fond Summer sympathies ensnared—
Nor from the perfect circle of the year
Can even Winter's crystal gems be spared.—Christopher Cranch.

COUNTY TOBACCO GROWERS ORGANIZE

Smithfield and Wilders Townships Organize to Reduce Acreage

During last week two townships, Wilders and Smithfield, were organized and a Secretary-Treasurer employed by the township committee of each to secure the pledges of the tobacco growers for a systematic reduction of acreage for 1921 crops and the whole hearted support of the members for the association as a means of relieving the present situation and preventing forever its unfortunate recurrence. Mr. Julius Williamson, is the Secretary-Treasurer of Wilders township and Mr. R. E. Whitehurst is the Secretary-Treasurer of Smithfield township. The other townships will be organized this week, the dates and place of meeting to be announced elsewhere in this paper.

A township committee and Secretary-Treasurer will be elected in each township of the county, the latter of which, will be paid for his time in making a house-to-house canvass of the tobacco growers of his township to secure the membership of the association. To date not a single tobacco grower has refused to cooperate in this work and become an active enthusiastic member of the association. The people realize the importance of standing together in this crisis as they have never realized it before for the protection of their mutual interest, and it is doubted if there will be as many as five out of each hundred asked to sign who will refuse to sign the pledge and live up to it. Individualism has cost us too severely already and the man who fails to stand by his brother in a common cause in this serious crisis is an unusual man.

The constitution, by-laws and rules and regulations of the association when read will prove that the association stands solely for the protection of the tobacco growers who have been at the mercy of not only the speculators in the past, but also, of each other. It is altogether probable that the growers have worked greater harm to each other in the past than has come from any other source. The committee in charge earnestly requests the fair and impartial consideration of the motives and purposes of the association by every tobacco grower in this county. If we stand together along with the other tobacco growers of the flue-cured tobacco belt the possibilities for bringing permanent relief to the men engaged in growing tobacco will be unlimited. Let us think only of this side of it because we know what the contrary will bring to us. When your Secretary comes to you and says "sign up," SIGN! Reduce your acreage and back up the association.

Sincerely yours,
S. J. KIRBY,

Secy.-Treas. County T. G. A.

Folk Lore Society Meets

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Folk-Lore Society, held Friday, in Raleigh, in the Senate Chamber, was opened by the address of the president, Hon. Francis D. Winston, of Windsor, after which a program followed in which discussions of local superstitions, the recital of a trial for Witchcraft, held in Kinston in 1916, and "sho-nuff nigger" singing were the features. The meeting closed with the election of officers for the coming year.

A dramatic and highly amusing recital of a trial for witchcraft which was actually held in Kinston in 1916 was given by Mr. Henry E. Shaw, of that town, who was the prosecuting attorney in the case, which ended in the supposed "he-witch" admitting in court before the harrassed victim that he was possessed of no supernatural power, and thus saving the "bewitched" from an untimely grave.

Two superstitions popular among the Cherokee Indians; the charming of the rattlesnake and the killing by fire-coal were described by Colonel Fred A. Olds. Colonel Olds also presented to the society a photograph of Joel Chandler Harris made in 1875 and given by Col. Marcellus Thornton, of Hickory, one of Mrs. Harris' close friends.