

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 42

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1923

NUMBER 8

OLD HERALD TELLS STORY OF THE FIRE

In 1889 Business District of This City Was Almost Totally Destroyed

Yesterday Mr. T. R. Hood brought in an old copy of THE SMITHFIELD HERALD published in April 1889, the first issue after the big fire which almost totally destroyed the business section of Smithfield. It is a miniature copy and gives very little news except concerning the fire. The printing office was among the buildings burned and this issue was printed by the "Rocky Mount Phoenix." Editors and owners of THE HERALD at that time were Messrs Sadler and John Sneed. The issue was volume 7, number 41.

The fire which swept the city at that time is one of the historical events of the town. Everything from about where Mr. Kirkman's garage now stands to the Victory Theatre was totally destroyed. A paragraph in the paper tells of the beautiful shade trees the pride of the city being reduced to blackened stumps. Another paragraph attributes the cause of the fire to boys smoking cigarettes. A buoyant note, however, pervades the whole paper, as plans were announced for rebuilding.

Many of our citizens will be interested in the account of the fire published in THE HERALD and we are reprinting it as follows:

"Last Sunday evening at 2 o'clock the alarm of fire was given by Mr. Tom Lindsay, who was walking down Second Street, and it was immediately discovered that the rear end of Morgan's Carriage Shop was in flames on the inside and with such rapidity did the fire gain headway that it was only a few minutes before the building was enveloped in a blaze which sent the flames towering heavenward, whence they were driven by the gale which was blowing at the time, to the surrounding buildings, and the block was doomed to be swept away by the greedy flames.

"The wind was blowing such a gale at the time the fire originated that despite the heroic efforts of the citizens, who fought the flames like Trojans, the flames leaped to Market and Third Streets and made a clean sweep of the handsome row of brick buildings that lined our principal business thoroughfare.

"Indeed it was a sad and melancholy spectacle to look at the tall blackened chimneys that stand grim and silent monuments over the tomb where our beautiful city lies in a shroud of ashes, but we must not repine at the losses; it is better for us to look the disaster squarely in the face, pull off our coats, roll up our sleeves and go to work to resurrect Smithfield from the tomb in which the flames consigned it on Sunday and soon we will see it resurrected and clothed with new vigor and energy.

"The loss is a heavy one and falls alike on all, but most heavily does it fall on the men whose silvery heads are bowed by life's well spent years, men who have toiled from youth to accumulate a competence, and it is distressing to think of their losses.

"Below we give a detailed account of the loss, the best we could ascertain:

"S. R. and J. A. Morgan, two stores, stock of goods, and carriage factory, loss \$20,000; no insurance; D. W. Fuller, stables and store buildings, about \$10,000; no insurance; Fuller & Hyman, stock of goods, loss \$10,000; insurance \$3,000; Adrian and Vollers two stores, loss \$2,000; no insurance; J. T. Barham, bar room, loss \$500; no insurance; Mrs. M. V. Sneed, loss about \$500; no insurance; W. L. Riley's two store-houses, loss \$1,000; no insurance; C. Harris, store house, loss \$400; no insurance; J. W. Talton, 2 store houses, loss \$1,500; no insurance; J. B. Alford, residence, loss \$800; no insurance; N. Keeter, bar, loss \$800; no insurance; W. G. Yelvington, four store houses and stock of goods, loss \$12,000; insurance \$4,100; A. Katz, market and residence, loss not known and no insurance; Hood Bros., stock of drugs, loss about \$4,000; insurance not known; Sasser, Woodall & Co., brick building loss about \$6,000; insurance not known; Sadler & Sneed, HERALD Printing House, loss about \$3,000; insurance \$1,500; Blake Bros., stock of goods, loss \$5,000; insurance

BASKETBALL DOUBLE BILL HERE TOMORROW NIGHT

Smithfield High Meet Wilson Highs And Girls Team Meets the Goldsboro Tossers.

By DONNELL WHARTON

With games scheduled with Wilson Highs and the Goldsboro Girls here tomorrow night, Saturday promises much to the sport loving fans of Smithfield. The game with Wilson is looked forward to as the best game on the local court so far this season. The only comparative standing of the two teams is through their games with Roanoke Rapids High School. While Wilson eased out of her game with Roanoke Rapids by four points Smithfield came off with a 24-8 decision. But since then Wilson is reported to have greatly improved its playing. In the two years in which Smithfield and Wilson have engaged in athletic relations the teams have met twice on both gridiron and court. In every contest Smithfield has emerged the victor, but "revenge is sweet" and Wilson is out to win.

Goldsboro is the first team the local girls have on their schedule for this season. The Smithfield aggregation have been putting in more than the usual amount of practice for them and will be ready for the game. With all last years team back except Miss Young and many new candidates the game will no doubt be a good one.

BRITISH TO HONOR WALTER HINES PAGE

LONDON, Jan. 23.—An appeal for funds for a permanent memorial to the late Walter Hines Page, former American ambassador to Great Britain, will be issued within a few days over the signature of Prime Minister Bonar Law, the Earl of Balfour, Herbert Aquith, David Lloyd George, and Lord Grey, the British ministers with whom the ambassador was brought into closest contact. The form the memorial is to take will depend upon the amount of the contributions.—Associated Press.

\$1,000; E. Dannenberg, two stores and stock of goods, loss \$15,000, insurance \$6,000; Julia George, residence, loss \$400, insurance \$250; E. J. and J. S. Holt, hardware, loss \$10,000, insurance \$4,500; Maj. Surles, store house, loss \$400; no insurance; Dr. G. J. Robinson, stables and horses, loss \$500; L. R. Waddell, office, loss \$150; E. S. Abell, law library and furniture, loss not known, no insurance; Mrs. McCullers, furniture, loss unknown, no insurance; W. B. Surles, stables, loss \$200; no insurance; B. R. Hood, store house, loss \$100; no insurance; Calvin Chavis, stock of goods, loss \$250; no insurance; Thomas heirs, 5 store houses, loss \$1,500; no insurance; G. H. Watson, stock of goods, loss \$500; no insurance; J. L. Scarborough, stock of goods, loss \$200; no insurance; J. M. Beckwith, stock of goods, loss \$150; no insurance; Daniel Thomas, residence and furniture, loss \$500; no insurance; Amanda Thomas, residence and furniture, loss \$500; no insurance; A. M. Rand, store house, loss \$100; no insurance; Bingham's store, loss \$200; no insurance; T. J. Baxter & Co., Jewelers, loss \$800; insurance \$250; J. A. Taylor, Jeweler, loss \$200; no insurance; W. L. Woodall, stock of goods about \$1,200; no insurance; Miss N. Wade & Co., stock of millinery goods, loss not known. The fronts of T. R. Hood's Drug Store and W. M. Sanders' Grocery were some damaged by the flames. Messrs Ives Bros., J. M. Beaty and Seth Woodall & Co., sustained considerable loss in moving their goods, and the Odd Fellows lost their whole outfit, with no insurance.

"Insurance was held in the following companies, and who lose as follows: Liverpool, London and Globe, \$8,300; V. F. & M., \$4,500; Southern and New Orleans, \$2,275; Rochester German, \$2,800; N. C. Home, \$600; Georgia Home, \$3,800; Wytheville, \$1,000.

"This is the most terrible blow Smithfield has had in some years, but she will rise from the ashes and come forth with redoubled vigor and energy. Fortunately for most of the business men they had safes and their valuable books and papers were uninjured."

NUMBER CASES IN RECORDER'S COURT

No Civil Docket Wednesday Until Criminal Cases are Disposed of

The Recorder's Court docket was full Tuesday the last case of the day being finished about seven o'clock P. M. Even then nine cases were continued. No civil docket has been set for Wednesday, January 31, it being the intention of Judge Noble to continue the hearing of the criminal docket until it is disposed of. The following cases came up Tuesday:

State vs. John K. Sanders, charged with unlawfully impounding a cow, the property of Andrew Caudill. The defendant found not guilty, and the prosecuting witness was taxed with cost of state's witnesses.

State vs. R. A. McLamb charged with assault with deadly weapon. Nol pros.

State vs. Jim Holt and Robert Jones charged with blockading. Defendants were found guilty. Holt was given 12 months on the roads and Jones 6 months. According to the evidence, soon after Christmas, these men together with Guilford Cogdell were discovered by Chief Griffin of Selma, at a still located about 200 yards from the house of Robert Jones, colored tenant on Jim Holt's farm in Boon Hill township. The still, however, was not on Holt's land but was on land belonging to a Mrs. Gurley, about 30 or 40 yards from Holt's line. The officers made the raid about 10:30 o'clock at night and watched the persons at the still for fifteen or twenty minutes before making known their presence. Holt, according to the evidence, had a lantern. He was seen to drink liquor and to direct the punching of the fire. Jones was seen to fix a part of the still which was leaking. Cogdell, the other negro discovered, made his escape and is still at large. Holt denies the charge against him, declaring he was at the still to apprehend another party. The defendant took an appeal to the Superior court.

State vs. Junius McLamb and Buddie McLamb charged with assault upon Daniel Young. Upon conclusion of evidence the court ordered that Young be included in the warrant, and all the defendants were found guilty. Each was fined \$15 and taxed with one-third of the costs.

State vs. David and Junius McLamb, charged with assault with deadly weapon upon Ezra Young, son of David Young. Not guilty.

State vs. E. West charged with perjury. Probable cause was found and the defendant was bound over to Superior Court under a \$500 bond.

State vs. Henry Robinson and Rufin McCoy charged with violation of the automobile laws. Henry Robinson plead guilty and was fined \$5 and costs.

State vs. Milliard Davis charged with blockading. Defendant plead guilty. The case was continued until January 30 for judgment. State vs. Cab Boykin charged with blockading. The defendant plead guilty. Prayer for judgment until January 30.

State vs. C. D. Watson, charged with obtaining money under false pretense. Not guilty. Prosecuting witness taxed with cost.

The nine cases on the docket which were continued are as follows, the first eight being continued until January 30, the last one until February 6.

State vs. Johnnie M. Sanders charged with violation of the automobile laws.

State vs. John McDuffy charged with carrying concealed weapon.

State vs. Willie Barfield charged with blockading.

State vs. John Smith, Napoleon Fort and Percy Murphy, charged with immoral conduct.

State vs. Zeb Norton charged with blockading.

State vs. D. A. Lee charged with violation of the prohibition laws.

State vs. Hyman Fort charged with cruelty to animals.

State vs. Robert Hastings charged with assault with deadly weapon.

Episcopal Church.

Church school 10 a. m. Morning service and prayer 11 a. m. Evening service and prayer 7 p. m. Rev. J. W. Barker, D. D.

SCHOOL HOUSE IS DESTROYED—FIRE

Brand New Building Had Been In Use Two Months \$3,500 Insurance

A brand new three room school house at Poplar Grove in Meadow township was totally destroyed by fire late Wednesday afternoon. About five o'clock the school truck from Meadow school passed Poplar Grove and no sign of any fire was visible at that time. About dark persons living near by discovered that the house was on fire, forced an entrance and endeavored to save the building. All efforts proved futile. From all indications, those witnessing the fire, think a defective flue caused the blaze.

The school house had been in use only about two months. It was built at a cost of \$4,530, and insurance was carried on the building to the amount of \$3,500. There was no insurance on the furniture. The teachers at this school are Mr. Joe Tilson, principal, and Misses Ware and Christine George.

Mr. Marrow, county superintendent has gone to the district today to make arrangements if possible for the continuance of the school.

STARTLING FACTS ON CRIME IN UNITED STATES

Sir Basil Thompson Says Slow Courts Chief Cause of Crime in America

GREENSBORO, Jan. 23.—Sir Basil Thompson, K. C. B., regarded as the original Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective, the most noted criminologist in the world, who during the World War was at the head of the British Secret Service Department and is now head of Scotland Yard, England's great police and detective agency, lecturing here last night revealed some startling facts, comparing British and American crime figures.

Last year in the United States there were nine thousand, five hundred murders; in England 63. Of the 63 all but eight were cleared up and the newspapers of England are demanding why they were not. In one penitentiary in Illinois, at Joliet, there are as many prisoners as in all the prisons of Canada.

He attributed the much greater amount of crime in the United States than England to delays in meting out punishment and to under-policing.

INDIVIDUALS PAY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF INCOME TAX

RALEIGH, Jan. 23.—Individuals paid less than one-fourth of the state income tax last year, according to figures given out by Revenue Commissioner A. D. Watts today showing that of the total tax of \$2,414,726.06 for 1922, corporations paid \$1,871,533.16 and individuals \$543,192.90.

Only two persons in the state paid an annual income of more than \$100,000, the state collecting \$12,805.77 from them on reported incomes aggregating \$426,865. Twenty-two persons paid on incomes ranging from \$56,000 to \$100,000. The tax from these amounted to \$40,367.14.

Col. Watts reports the further classification of individual income tax payers as follows: Seventeen with incomes between 40,000 and \$50,000, total tax \$20,910.75; 27 with incomes between \$30,000 and \$40,000, total tax \$52,920.71; 89 with incomes between \$20,000 and \$30,000, total tax \$52,920.60; 310 with incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000, total tax \$78,431.41.

Twenty-six thousand three hundred and sixty-six individuals reported taxable incomes of less than \$5,000 and they paid income tax \$230,860.73.—Brock Barkley in Wilmington Star.

Free Garden and Flower Seed.

A letter from Congressman E. W. Pou announces that he is now making preparations to distribute his allotment of garden and flower seeds. In distributing these seeds, he will first supply those who make a request by postal card, after which the seeds will be distributed indiscriminately.

WELFARE WORKERS HOLD MEETING IN RALEIGH

Endorse Mothers' Aid Bill; Dr. H. H. Hart, of New York Speaks on Prison Conditions

The social service conference which was held in Raleigh this week was well attended by welfare workers from all over the state. The afternoon session Wednesday was devoted largely to a discussion of child care. The discussion was led by J. J. Phoenix, of Greensboro, president of the North Carolina Children's Association, and the proposed Mothers' Aid bill was the subject that claimed most attention. It was heartily endorsed by the superintendents of public welfare and by every superintendent of an orphanage who was present. Superintendent M. L. Kessler, of Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, Supt. Brown, of Oxford, Supt. Barnes, of the Methodist Orphanage, Raleigh, Supt. Pender and Miss Agnes McNaughton, of Samarcand, were among those who spoke in behalf of it. Supt. Phoenix, of the Children's Home Society, Greensboro, said that of the 856 homeless children offered the society within the past two years, 171 or about 20 per cent were subjects for mothers aid.

New officers were elected, the constitution revised, and other business dispensed with.

The feature of the program Wednesday night was an address by Dr. Hasting H. Hart, of New York, president of the American Prison Association. Quoting the Greensboro News:

"The well-known clergyman's theme, 'The new development of prisons in the south,' was distinctly more hopeful than northern prison workers have been generally able to say about the south. He found in Alabama, for instance, abandonment of the flogging, and the policy is so successful that nobody pretends to desire its restoration. In North Carolina he finds some points of divergence with the committee of 100, particularly in its proposal to have women's quarters on the state farm, though segregated as suggested. Fifty miles isolation is the least he would accept.

"He said much against the jails. For one thing they are often inhabited by people who are held simply as witnesses and therefore as governmental conveniences. That is all wrong, he declared. Another thing that makes them bad is the enforced idleness necessarily so because the law thinks it cannot set men to work who have not been tried and sentenced. He said that modern students have learned the use of recreation in prison and life is ordered with the understanding that recreation is a portion of the human regime.

"After he had surveyed prisons generally throughout the country he was asked to give his opinion on the abolition of capital punishment. Quite apart from his own right to inflict vengeance, a prerogative of the Lord, he said, was his belief in the utter futility of capital punishment. He thinks it defeats justice often because it is so drastic. Asked whether states without it suffer more from crimes of violence, he declared the figures would show they do not. He could not mark the public execution taught any salutary lesson."

TRINITY COLLEGE BUYS OVER MILLION MARKS WORTH BOOKS

DURHAM, Jan. 23.—Figured on the foreign exchange market for last Wednesday, the Trinity College library here has just imported 1,300,000 marks worth of books from a German agent. At pre-war prices 1,300,000 marks would have been worth \$309,400. The facts are that Trinity paid \$65 for 378 bound volumes of the great French publication "La Revue Des Deux Mondes," which being interpreted is "The Review of Two Worlds." The volumes include the regular issues from 185, to 1914 and the annual volumes from 1851 to 1867 inclusive. As the collection was bought in Germany, it ends with the third volume of 1914. The volumes on the American market today would probably bring \$1,000, while if the rarity and age of some of them was considered the sum would go much beyond this.

Farm prices are low, and the boll weevil is here, but the farmer who raises most of the food for his table is not worrying about his next meal.

THE LEGISLATIVE NEWS OF WEEK

Senate Committee Approves Boat Bill; Mothers' Aid Bill Is Introduced

A number of bills of state wide interest have been introduced in the legislature this week. The outstanding action of the senate Monday night was to kill the bill which would create a pardon board thus relieving the governor of a responsibility which many think is too great for one man to assume. Governor Morrison however is said to be personally opposed to such a board which fact may have had some effect upon the reception of the bill.

The general state education bill was introduced in the Senate Tuesday and a time appointed for a joint meeting of the house and senate committee on education.

Probably the most interesting discussion since the legislature has been in session up to the time the bill was introduced centered around the bill of Representative McKimmon, of Robeson county providing for the election of the Robeson County superintendent of schools by the people. Representative Burgwyn, of Northampton county who contemplated a similar bill for his county and Representative Connor of Wilson warmed things up as they spoke on the measure, Mr. Connor being in favor of the present system of naming County Superintendents, while Mr. Burgwyn is opposed to having them named "from Raleigh." If other similar local measures are introduced, the maintenance of the present system may be the chief issue at stake in considering the proposed bills.

The mothers' aid bill, which provides for an annual state appropriation of \$50,000 to be used in matching appropriations from the several counties to aid mothers left to support the family in caring for their children at home rather than sending them to an orphanage, was introduced Tuesday simultaneously in both branches of the General Assembly. Quoting from the News and Observer:

"The act makes the county juvenile court the unit for the administration of the law, with supervisory powers lodged in the State Board of Welfare. Any board of county commissioners may make appropriation for any case recommended by the county juvenile court where the recommendation is approved by the State Board of Welfare and the State will bear one half of the expense up to the limit of appropriation, with the fund of \$50,000 apportioned among the counties on a per capita basis as far as practicable. Support under the act is limited to needy mothers of children under fourteen who are morally and physically fitted to care for their children. The allowance is limited to \$15 a month for the first child, \$10 a month for the second child and \$5 a month for each additional child."

On Wednesday, the Senate committee on Water Commerce legislation advocated by Governor Morrison, unanimously reported favorably on the bill. This measure carries with it an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to buy and operate a state line of steamships. The bill has not yet been referred to the House Committee. This measure will probably be considered in the Senate on some special day yet to be named.

The Baggett Anti-masking bill aimed at the Ku Klux Klan which though rejected by two judiciary committee, through a minority report, his bill is again on the senate calendar and will be considered at the close of the morning session today.

STATE ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS ORGANIZED

RALEIGH, Jan. 23.—A state association of fairs was organized here today at a meeting of secretaries representing 15 Carolina fairs in the U. S. district court room when Dr. J. Vance McGowan, of Fayetteville, was elected president, Colonel Joseph E. Pogue, of Raleigh, was elected first vice-president; George Howard, of Tarboro, second vice-president; and Garland Daniel, of Greensboro, secretary and treasurer.

Get the cotton land ready. Beat the boll weevil by better seed, better cultivation, and better fertilization. The early bolls are hard to puncture.