

CRIMINAL COURT HAS A CROWDED DOCKET

A. W. Perry Charged With the Killing of Paul Stephenson Is Acquitted

This is court week in Smithfield and the March criminal term moves along apace. The court is ably presided over by Hon. J. Lloyd Horton, of Farmville, and the State is represented by Hon. Clawson L. Williams, of Sanford, who is with this court making his first official visit to the courts of Johnston. The docket is large and the attendance is unusually large. Judge Horton's manner of holding court is business-like, and several cases are tried each day.

The case of State vs. Kemp Lee for making whiskey during last December was tried Tuesday. The main witness for the State was Prohibition Officer W. H. Flowers. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Enley Boykin, charged with an assault with deadly weapon upon Jasper Pittman, was on trial Tuesday upon appeal from a hundred-dollar fine from the Recorder's court of last October. Jury's verdict was that defendant was guilty, and he was sentenced to 12 months on roads of Johnston county. Boykin has a wife and five small children living near Moore's school house, and for this reason term was reduced to three months, subject to good behavior.

A good part of the last half of Tuesday and first half of Wednesday was taken up with the case of State vs. Charlie McLamb, a sixteen-year old boy from Benson, charged with house breaking, the crime being committed in April, 1921. This case had been tried in the juvenile court, but owing to the gravity of the crime this court did not have jurisdiction and was placed upon the superior court docket. The State in this case was ably represented by Attorneys James Raynor, of Benson, and Mr. Best, of Dunn, while the defendant was likewise well represented by Attorneys Ezra Parker, of Benson, and Col. Ed. S. Abell, of Smithfield. The defendant was found guilty, but owing to his youthfulness at the time of the crime, judgment is being retarded while the county superintendent of public welfare is trying to get admission for him at the Jackson Training School.

Wednesday afternoon found a packed court room, it having become known that the case, the State vs. A. W. Perry, policeman of Benson, charged with shooting and killing Paul Stephenson at Benson on the 15 of last December, was set for this time. A good deal of interest has been manifested in the case since the occurrence took place culminating in the trial Wednesday afternoon when Mr. Perry was acquitted.

Able counsel both for the state and the defendant added to the interest. Messrs. C. C. Canaday, of Benson and E. S. Abell represented the defendant while the solicitor was assisted by Messrs Ezra Parker, of Benson and S. S. Holt, of Smithfield. Quite an array of witnesses were placed upon the stand including the defendant himself.

The circumstances of the occurrence will be recalled by many who heard of the sad affair at the time it happened. Evidence was brought out in the trial which convinced the jury that the killing was accidental rather than involuntary manslaughter, the charge brought by the state. According to the testimony of the defendant, his pistol accidentally discharged as he was thrown from the running board of the car in which Stephenson was riding having caught hold of the car in an effort to stop it. This evidence was given as the true facts in the case rather than the first statement which was made that the defendant shot at the tire of the automobile. Mr. Odum the other occupant of the car besides Mr. Stephenson, for whom the officer had a warrant, is not to be found and the only eye witness to the tragedy was Mr. Hockaday, the night policeman of Benson, who was being assisted by Mr. Perry in making the arrest. Mr. Hockaday's testimony coincided with that of the defendant.

The defendant proved a splendid character, a dozen or more character witnesses bearing testimony to this effect.

The hearing of the evidence consumed three hours or more and the

STORM LEAVES DEATH, AND DESTRUCTION IN WAKE

Red Cross Active In Ministering To Victims Over Torn Area; Death List Soars.

CHICAGO, March 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—Red Cross representatives, public officials and citizens' committees were at work today retrieving the wreckage, human and otherwise, in the storm-swept states of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys. Reports apparently almost complete, placed the life loss in the March fury of Sunday and early yesterday at 44. Nearly 200 were reported injured.

The combination of blizzard blasts and the first general thunder storms of the year, left tragedy, damage, pathos and heroism in its wake.

Red Cross ministrations were being given today to the survivors at Pinson and Deansburg, in Western Tennessee, where thirty of the 300 or more inhabitants were killed and 100 persons were injured by the storm which left little of those communities erect.

JACKSON, Tenn., March 13.—Seventeen dead, stood as the toll taken by the tornado which swept in from the southwest Sunday night through the village of Deanburg and Pinson, near the boundary of Chester and Madison counties, leaving in its wake a trail of wrecked dwellings, several hundred homeless and approximately 75 maimed.

Jackson hospitals are crowded with injured and others being quartered in homes.

Of the injured, a dozen or more were seriously hurt but only one, J. C. Ervin, was reported in a critical condition. Ervin ill with pneumonia, was caught under falling timbers of his home, and his chest crushed. Physicians attending him declared he had "a fighting chance to live". Two of his children are among the dead and his wife among the injured.

Pinson, a farming settlement of about 300 inhabitants, is wrecked. Upwards of forty dwellings, two school houses, and a church were torn to fragments and a score or more houses were partially wrecked by the wind which swept into Madison county after sweeping through the smaller hamlet of Deanburg, in Chester county.

In Deanburg scarcely a building escaped damage, while in Pinson none but the more substantial brick houses weathered the storm.

Rescue parties today continued the search of outlying sections for the possible additional dead or injured, while Red Cross workers organized relief measures with the machinery of that organization already in motion, and the immediate needs of the homeless cared for.

Today tents and supplies were on their way to the storm swept area from the divisional Red Cross headquarters in Atlanta and by night-fall it was believed all of the homeless will be provided with tents to shelter them until their ruined homes can be restored.

A fund of several thousand dollars was being raised here today to 42 providing aid for the urgent needs of the victims. Several truck loads of clothing and bedding were sent to the scene of the storm last night.

TO BOMB HEAVY ICE JAM IN DELEWARE RIVER

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Three army airplanes will be sent to Port Jarvis, N. Y., tomorrow to bomb a heavy ice jam in the Delaware river which threatens to cause a flood. An officer of the air service, who inspected the situation, recommended use of explosives.

speeches of the lawyers carried the case over into the evening hours. Adjournment was made for supper, the case being resumed at 8 o'clock. The jury took the case shortly after ten o'clock, and in about half an hour brought in the verdict—not guilty.

Yesterday the entire day was consumed with the case State vs. Harris Johnson charged with rape of Lillie Peacock, a fourteen year old girl. As we close our forms for this issue the case is not completed. The defendant is represented by Attorneys James Raynor of Benson, and S. S. Holt, of Smithfield. Attorneys Jas. A. and Robert A. Wellons have been retained to assist Solicitor Williams.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION RECEIVED ATTENTION

General Assembly Provided Well for North Carolina's Unfortunates

RALEIGH, March 15.—Social legislation fared well at the hands of the General Assembly of 1923. In fact, was, on the whole, progressive. It followed out the general policies of the sessions of 1917, 1919 and 1921 in extending public welfare work in North Carolina and in providing generously for the State's unfortunates. Not a single retrogressive step was taken by this last General Assembly in regard to North Carolina's social program.

Most important among the progressive social measures passed are the Mothers' Aid bill, the one to raise the age of consent from 14 to 16 years, and its companion making the legal age of marriage 16 instead of 14, the establishment of an industrial training school for delinquent boys in Eastern North Carolina and the bill to allow two or more counties to unite to build a county home. It was also favorable for the progress of public welfare work in North Carolina that the proposed amendment to the juvenile court law which would reduce the age limit of jurisdiction of that court from 16 to 14 failed to pass.

It was in support of the Mothers' Aid bill that the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare was especially active. This measure was strongly sponsored by most of the civic and fraternal organizations in the State and by many of the churches and by the Legislative Council of Women. It met with practically no opposition in either the Senate or the House. Its passage marks a distinct forward step in North Carolina's plan of caring for dependent children. Its purpose is to aid worthy mothers who have been deprived of the support of their husbands to care for their children in their own homes. The bill carries an annual appropriation of \$50,000 from the State. Counties which take advantage of the plan are required to match their share of this appropriation.

By raising the age of consent to 16 and by making the legal age of marriage also 16 and by defeating the proposed amendment to the juvenile court law which would have reduced the age limit of that court's jurisdiction to 14 there has been secured a wise and convenient uniformity in regard to age in these laws relating to the protection of children in the State.

The bill to allow two or more counties to unite in building a county home is in line with the policy of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare to consolidate, whenever possible, such poor-relief into district homes as more efficient and economical than the county unit.

Bills to abolish the superintendent of public welfare in Surry, Lenoir, Johnston, Columbus and Avery counties were defeated due to the strong sentiment of the people of these counties in favor of the welfare officer as expressed to their representatives. With reference to Warren county, the State law which made the employment of a welfare officer optional in a county of less than 32,000 was repealed and this same option was enacted as a local law. A bill was passed making the office of superintendent of public welfare mandatory in Mitchell county and raising the compulsory attendance age there to 16.

Prison reform bills sponsored by the N. C. Conference for Social Service travelled a rougher road than the rest of the social measures. Three out of seven bills on the program of the Conference introduced into the General Assembly passed. These were: to put the State prison on an appropriation basis; to abolish the department for criminal insane at the State Prison; and to establish a colony for tubercular prisoners. These last two were offered by Supt. Poul and all three had his support. The bills which failed to pass were: to abolish flogging as a punishment; to reorganize the Board of Directors of the State Prison; to change the personnel of the Advisory Board of Parole; and to send all prisoners sentenced for more than three months

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EXPOSITION OPENS AT WILSON MONDAY

Program Is Completed For This Great Eastern Carolina Exposition

Everything is ready for the big Exposition to be held at Wilson, N. C., March 19-25th, under the auspices of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce. The program has been completed and nothing remains now, but to open the doors and let the crowds file in, and the indications are there will be sufficient crowds the very first day, to convince any body that Eastern North Carolina is yet alive. The full program is listed below which is composed of some of the most prominent talent, both political and musical in this country. Nobody within 100 miles of Wilson should miss this big event.

In discussing the purpose of the Exposition with a reporter of this paper, Secretary Bartlett, who is handling the big show had the following to say: "The officers and Executive Committee of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce felt that they could do nothing that would attract more attention and be more potent in 'selling' Eastern North Carolina than a show of this kind, and so we arranged to hold it. In the second place, we wanted to let our people see, in part at least, just what we have. These are two main reasons why this big Exposition was planned and is being staged."

Eastern North Carolina Music lovers have a real treat in store for them on the opening day, when Anna Case, America's Premier Soprano, will give a recital afternoon and evening. The afternoon recital will consist of about half of her regular program, but the evening recital will consist of her full program. The prizes for this Grand Opera will be about the same that is being charged in Eastern Carolina for plain Vaudeville. But the management feel that the people should have an opportunity to get the best for the least money. You ought to hear this wonderful singer.

Yarborough's Band will be a big feature every day and night during the week. Two concerts daily will be given by him, including his special solo work of both vocal and instrumental. These concerts alone are worth the price of admission.

The big Exposition will open with a parade on Monday afternoon, at 2 p. m., and from the interest that is being manifested in this, there will be a large number of entries. The prizes are as follows: first \$100; 2nd, \$75; 3rd, \$50. Governor Morrison will lead the parade. Yarborough's Famous Hussar Band will furnish the music for the big occasion.

A school parade will be staged Friday at 2 p. m. An effort is being made to get all the school children from several counties to have trucks loaded with school children in this parade. Wilson and Johnston County Schools will participate 100 per cent. The prizes for this parade are as follows: For the schools outside of Wilson City Schools that brings the largest percentage of her pupils to the parade, will be given \$50; 2nd, \$25; and 3rd, \$15. For the grade in the City Schools of Wilson that puts out on the best parade, will be awarded \$25.00; 2nd \$15.00; 3rd, \$10.00.

At least 10,000 school children ought to attend this big day Friday March 23, of the Exposition. The two big buildings are so beautifully decorated that it will be a revelation to not only the children but to the adults as well. The children ought to have an opportunity to see what our own people can put on, and this is a pretty good way to get them acquainted with these facts.

The Hon. John Temple Graves will be on the program Tuesday night, March 20th, instead of Hon. Wm. G. McAdoo as previously announced. Mr. McAdoo's business affairs in Los Angeles made it necessary that he cancel his engagement. But the people of this entire section have a rare treat in store for Tuesday night. John Temple Graves is well known as an orator in the country as any other man, possibly unless it is William J. Bryan. Mr. Graves is one of the smoothest speakers the country has ever produced, and his wide knowledge of business affairs will make his address more than interesting.

WIND PLAYS HAVOC AROUND SNOW HILL

Uproot Trees, Blows Down Barns and Lifts Tops Off of Houses.

GOLDSBORO, March 13.—A semi-tornado twisting off poplars 6 inches in diameter, stripping the roofs off tenant houses, blowing down tobacco barns, carrying away all the skylights on a new brick tobacco warehouse, and driving huge firebrands from a forest fire onward across fields to be extinguished by the rain driven too by the wind, struck Snow Hill at two o'clock this afternoon. O. C. Liles, a salesman, reported here tonight.

A sky light and frame was thrown on a man in a horse and buggy, severely cutting him. Mr. Liles was in the midst of the storm. He declared that had not the storm split, one prong going north and another southwest, many more buildings would have been wrecked. The north prong the storm followed Contentnae creek, wringing off poplars and cedars and filling the air with debris and burning fagots from an old field fire. The houses with the roofing stripped off were tenant houses with tin roofs for the most part. Tobacco barns blown down too were old buildings, but the warehouse with the wrecked top was new and one of the finest in Eastern Carolina.

Reports came here late tonight of storm and hail in the Dudley section of this county which wrecked several barns. A slight fall of hail followed by a heavy wind storm struck Goldsboro at noon today.

GIRLS TEAM ELIMINATE TARBORO HIGH SCHOOL

In a game featured by the all-round passing of the Smithfield girls quint, the local team eliminated Tarboro High School from the Eastern Championship series at Rocky Mount Wednesday night by a 24-13 score.

The next game will probably come next week.

Arrangements have been made to have a monster style show Tuesday night or Thursday night. Living models will be used to show off the many new things that the department stores have to offer in Eastern Carolina. This is a real treat.

The Exposition feels fortunate of being able to book Mrs. Lois Long Riker for a concert Wednesday night. Mrs. Riker is a Carolina product and has gone to New York and made good in the musical world as a Soprano. Her many friends in this section will be on hand to give her the cheer.

Thursday afternoon and evening the various Queens that will be sent from Eastern Carolina will be voted on. The out of Wilson queen receiving the largest number of votes will be presented with a \$500 diamond ring on Friday night and officially crowned. A separate contest is on for Wilson girls and a \$500 diamond ring will be presented to the Wilson winner also, and she will be crowned Friday night along with the out of town girl.

Saturday, the people of Eastern Carolina will be fortunate in having Dr. A. M. Soule, President of the State College of Agriculture, of Georgia, to address them Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Dr. Soule has just recently returned from a trip to South America where he has gained some wonderful information as to financial relations as affecting the South. His address will be one of the best things of the whole Exposition. Every man that is at all interested, and we are all, in Agriculture, or business, in any way, should hear Dr. Soule Saturday morning.

Dr. Kilgore Speaks in Afternoon. Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Director of the Extension service of North Carolina will speak in the afternoon on something vitally important to people of the Southland. You should arrange to hear him.

From every angle you look at this big occasion it looks good. As a development measure for Eastern Carolina, it is possibly unsurpassed. As an advertisement for the section, it can't be beat. As a time for real wholesome amusement, it has no equal. If you are interested in any of this, make your plans to attend at least one day, the opening day and you will be found around there every day thereafter.

PLEDGES BE TAKEN SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Johnston County Presbyterians to Raise Quota \$3208 For Evangelism

Evangelism is the outstanding keynote of the campaign of the progressive program of the Southern Presbyterian church which is now in progress and which will close with the every member canvas on Sunday, March 18. In the synod of North Carolina Presbyterians will be urged to pledge on next Sunday \$780,000 for the benevolent causes of the church, and those who are directing this stewardship campaign in this synod realize fully that if the importance of evangelism is recognized the financial problem of the church will be solved promptly and without special effort.

The quota for the Johnston County Presbyterian churches for the year beginning April 1, 1922 is as follows: Alaska, \$56; Benson, \$376; Center Ridge \$50; Community, \$30; Four Oaks, \$40; Kenly \$600; Mizpah \$64; Oakland, \$480; Oak Grove \$100; Progressive \$40; Roseneath \$24; Selma, \$100; Smithfield \$1,000; Spence \$248. This makes a grand total of \$3,208 for Johnston county.

The following facts concerning need for urgent evangelistic effort throughout this synod will prove of special interest at this time.

The synod of North Carolina is composed of seven presbyteries and 88 of the 100 counties of the state are included in the territory of the synod.

In the presbytery of Albemarle there is a population of 699,201; there are 5,877 Presbyterians in this presbytery and last year 356 conversions were reported in this presbytery where there is an unconverted population of 175,571 under 20 years of age.

There is a population of 272,320 in the presbytery of Concord, 9,544 Presbyterians. Last year 406 conversions were reported in the presbytery and the unconverted population is 58,228.

The population of the presbytery of Fayetteville is 252,973, with 13,379 Presbyterians. The number of conversions reported in this presbytery last year was 784, and the unconverted population is 67,365.

The presbytery of King's Mountain is in a territory with a population of 143,643. There are 4,597 Presbyterians in this presbytery; the number of conversions reported last year was 357, and the unconverted population is 33,385.

In the presbytery of Mecklenburg, with a population of 212,149, there are 14,038 Presbyterians and there were 748 conversions reported last year. The unconverted population over ten years of age in this presbytery numbers 47,585.

The population of the presbytery of Orange is 503,400, of which number 11,514 are Presbyterians. There were 766 conversions reported last year and the unconverted population is 137,892.

In the presbytery of Wilmington the population is 326,871, and in this presbytery there are 7,556 Presbyterians. The conversions reported last year were 419, and the unconverted population in this presbytery is 78,891.

BUY GOOD BOOKS AND HELP YOURSELF AND THE LEAGUE

The Epworth League of Centenary Methodist church will during the next few days present for sale to the families of our town the Moody Colportage Library, than which there are no better books for family use. The books are suitable to all ages and the price is thirty cents per book—suits about all pocket books. Some of the titles are: Sowing and Reaping, The Way to God, Gospel Pictures and Story Sermons, Difficulties in the Bible, etc. The young people get a small profit from the sales which they use in the benevolent and mission work of the Senior and Junior Epworth Leagues.

Rev. D. H. Tuttle selected the books which are non-sectarian and are spiritually helpful to all.

Mrs. W. H. Lyon returned Wednesday from Raleigh where she visited her sister for a few days and attended the Alvah Parson art lectures.