

The Smithfield Herald

Vol. 43

SMITHFIELD, N. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1924

NUMBER 15

Cooper Brothers Are Acquitted on Charge of Violating Banking Act

Jury Deliberates Near Three Hours After Hearing Two Weeks of Testimony

WAS HARD FOUGHT CASE

Wilmington, Feb. 16.—After a trial covering exactly two weeks Lieutenant Governor W. B. Cooper and his brother, Thomas E. Cooper, chairman of the board and president, respectively, of the defunct Commercial National Bank were today acquitted in the United States District Court of a charge of conspiring to violate the National Banking act. The jury returned its verdict at 3:30 this afternoon, after deliberating for two hours and 55 minutes.

The defendants were discharged until the May term of court under the same bonds of \$5,000 each, which they gave when arrested last August. The only other charge against the Lieutenant Governor is another bill charging him with committing the acts he has just been acquitted of conspiring to commit and it is considered doubtful whether he will be put upon trial again. However, there are three more indictments in the federal court and an indictment in the State court against Thomas E. Cooper. The government is expected to press one more of its charges, regardless of what happens in the state court.

The outcome in the conspiracy case was foreshadowed this morning in the charge of Judge Henry G. Conner who withdrew from the consideration of the jury all except one of the sixteen charges in the bill of indictment.

"Without regard to other phases of the case about which I have no opinion, I want to say that if I had been on the jury, I should have returned the same verdict in this case," declared the court when the verdict was returned.

"Although not strictly in my line of duty, I take the liberty of suggesting to you gentlemen of counsel that there be no demonstration about this verdict for reasons you will understand. There are other matters pending," continued the court.

Those who have followed the case closely have felt since the defendants were on the stand Wednesday and Thursday that Judge Conner had become convinced that under the Federal statute governing conspiracy the requirements of the law in providing that charge had not been met. There was little surprise at either the sweeping nature of his charge or the subsequent verdict of the jury.

The admonition regarding a demonstration was not necessary as the courtroom, which has been packed throughout the trial was almost deserted when the end came. Most of those present went quickly and congratulated the defendants. The brothers themselves showed no emotion. Though naturally of excitable temperaments the defendants have kept themselves under control during the trial. Thomas E. Cooper never lost his composure while the Lieutenant Governor lost himself only during the speech of District Attorney Irvin B. Tucker, who was twice interrupted by the defendant. Judge Conner deplored notice given this incident in charging the jury.

—R. E. Williams in News & Observer.

NEW YORK OFFICERS GET 10,000 CASES WHISKEY

New York, Feb. 14.—More than 10,000 cases of liquor, five barrels of alcohol, and a completely equipped "cutting" plant were seized by federal prohibition agents tonight in a downtown warehouse. The building is on Water street, a few blocks from city hall.

The agents had loaded about 100 cases of gin, 30 cases of whiskey and the barrels of alcohol on a truck, and

CIVIL TERM COURT OPENS DAY LATE

Judge Pittman Detained on Case in Clinton; Two Weeks' Docket Pending

JUDGE PITTMAN RESIGNS

The two weeks term of Civil Court scheduled to open here yesterday was unable to begin on the docket yesterday, owing to the fact that Judge T. M. Pittman of Henderson, who will preside over this term of court was detained in Clinton. A case in the Sampson County Court hung over until Monday, causing the conflict. Court will probably begin business today.

The papers Sunday carried news of the resignation of Judge Pittman who was recently appointed to succeed Judge Kerr, now serving in Congress. The resignation to take effect on Feb. 25. Immediately upon receipt of the resignation of Judge Pittman, Governor Morrison appointed Tasker Polk of Warrenton. Mr. Polk, was to give his answer to the governor yesterday, it being thought that he would accept.

DR. HOBGOOD OF OXFORD COLLEGE DEAD

Oxford, Feb. 17.—Dr. Franklin P. Hobgood, president of Oxford College, who died in a Richmond hospital last night, will be buried here tomorrow afternoon. Funeral services will be held at 3 o'clock in the Oxford college chapel, and will be conducted by Rev. J. D. Harte, pastor of Oxford Baptist church, assisted by Rev. J. F. Hardaway, of Thomasville, who was pastor of the Baptist church here for twenty years.

Grandsons of the deceased will be active pallbearers and the board of deacons of the Baptist church, of which Dr. Hobgood was a member for many years, will act as honorary pallbearers.

The faculty and student body of Oxford College, of which Dr. Hobgood was president for more than forty years, will act as escort for the remains, and will have charge of the music at the funeral.

SEEK BUST OF BROOKS FOR THE HALL OF FAME

Boston, Feb. 14.—For the placing of a bust of Phillips Brooks in the Hall of Fame at New York University, New York City, to which he was elected in 1919, the Supreme Court was petitioned today to permit the expenditure of about \$4,000 from a fund raised by Trinity Church in memory of the preacher.

The petition, filed by a committee appointed by the wardens and vestry of the church, suggests that a replica of the head of Phillips Brooks by Daniel Chester French, now in the Trinity Church baptistry, be bought for the Hall of Fame.

"This will assist in perpetuating the memory of Phillips Brooks," the petition reads, "and will be a source of inspiration to thousands of people in the United States."

The U. D. C. To Meet

The Holt-Sanders chapter of the U. D. C. will meet with Mrs. Thel Hooks at her home this afternoon at three o'clock. All members are requested to be present.

were about to leave the building when the electric lights in the warehouse went out. Continuing their search with flashlights and lanterns they found a stairway leading from the second to the third floor at the end of which was a barred door.

Old Confederates In a Fatal Fight

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 17.—Death may write the closing chapter in the fight between two aged Confederate veterans at the state Old Soldiers home here Friday, when one of them, G. W. Hamby, 97, was fatally stabbed in a childish argument over whether a window should be raised or let down. Dr. G. T. Bracking, 91, the slayer, is in a serious condition due to injuries received in the encounter, and attendants at the home believe that action by the state in prosecuting him will be forestalled by his early death. Dr. Bracking confined at the quarters at the home, is claiming that he killed Hamby in self-defense, when the latter attacked him because he would not raise the window in his room. The state has announced following an investigation by the sheriff of Davidson county and Governor Austin Peay that no criminal action would be taken until Dr. Bracking is fully recovered.

Smithfield Eliminates Wendell '5' From Race

Defeat Wake County Tossers by 40 to 11 Score; Second Team Lively Things Up.

HILL AND CAUDILL, E. STAR

Taking the lead from the start and keeping ahead throughout the game, the Smithfield High school cagers here Saturday night by the count of 40 to 11, thus eliminating Wendell from the State championship basketball contest.

Wendell scored most of their goals in the first half. Practically all of their goals were obtained from the foul line. Upchurch, Wendell's diminutive guard played a good game for the visitors. He made one exceptionally fine shot from mid-way the court.

The Smithfield cagers had no trouble in defeating Wendell, the locals playing rings around the Wake County tossers. Caudill, E. who was substituted for Holland at the beginning of the second quarter, and Hill lead in the scoring for Smithfield, Caudill caging four field goals and one foul and Hill five field goals. Caudill, J., played one quarter and rang up three field goals.

At the beginning of the second half Smithfield's second team was run in and from then on the game was even more snappy than when the varsity team was in.

The teams surviving in Group Seven are Smithfield, Raleigh and Wilson.

15 Whiskey Stills Captured by Officers

During the past two weeks federal officers have captured fifteen whiskey stills, ten of these being found in Johnston County and five in the eastern part of the state. The stills ranged in size from thirty gallons to one hundred gallon capacity and more than eight thousand gallons of mash were seized and destroyed. Several gallons of whiskey were also found. No arrests have been made.

FIRE DESTROYS WINTER ESTATE AT PINEHURST

Pinehurst, Feb. 16.—The winter home of H. C. Fownes, of Pittsburgh, valued at \$60,000 was partially destroyed by fire this morning when a blaze was started by a defective flue. The damage was estimated at \$35,000.

Denby Resigns As Secretary of Navy

Gets Out Following Criticism of Oil Leasing Program; Original Cabinet Member

Washington, Feb. 18.—Edwin B. Denby has resigned as Secretary of the Navy and his resignation has been accepted.

After repeatedly declaring he never would quit the cabinet under fire of those who have criticized his part in the oil leasing program the secretary notified President Coolidge this morning that he was ready to step out.

His decision followed a telephone communication between the president and Mr. Doheny in which all of the latest aspects of the situation were talked over in the light of information passed on to the White House by Republican leaders in the Senate.

Recently a number of the Secretary's friends also have been consulted by the president and they fully understand the embarrassment that might result in retaining Mr. Denby in the cabinet while the oil annulment suits are in progress.

Not only is he a party to the oil leases having affixed his signature along with Albert B. Fall, but he has repeatedly defended his part in proceedings and has declared publicly since the present controversy arose that he believed the contracts legal and would be willing to pursue the same course again.

It has been pointed out to the

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SCHOOL CONTRACTS TO BE LET FRIDAY

Glendale And Princeton To Build; Already 14 Brick Schools In County.

BENSON TO VOTE MARCH 4

The time is not far distant when Johnston County will have a commodious brick school house for every one of her seventeen townships. There are already fourteen brick schools in the county, and on Friday, Feb. 22, the contracts will be let for two more one at Princeton and one at Glendale. Bids will be opened here at noon, and the bidding promises to be lively, fourteen contractors having called for plans in order to make estimates.

The Glendale school which is near Kenly, will have sixteen class rooms besides a library and office. There will also be recreation space in the basement and an auditorium that will seat between five and six hundred persons.

Princeton's building will contain twenty class rooms besides library, office and teacher's rest room, and will have the biggest school auditorium in the county. The seating capacity will be a thousand.

Both of these buildings will be equipped with steam heat, water-works, and will have shower baths in the basement.

Two other districts in the county Clayton and Pine Level have recently voted bonds, and Benson will make a decision as to another building on March 4. When these plans materialize, it will bring the total of brick school houses in the county to twenty.

NEGRO COLLEGE TO STUDY BOLL WEEVIL

Greensboro, Feb. 18.—Because of the effect of the boll weevil upon the negro farmers of cotton growing section, the agricultural workers of the A. & T. College in this city have set aside February 28 and 29 for a special program of study about the pest. On these two days all the different classes at the College will make a special study of the life history and destructive habits of the weevil. Methods of poisoning the cotton to control the weevil and modern machinery for applying poison will be demonstrated. As now planned this special meeting will be so arranged that teachers in negro schools, negro local agents of the Agricultural Extension Service and farmers will attend. The A. & T. College is now forming special committees to work out a program for the two days.

Bad temper is poison to a nervous system.

SENTINEL BUILDING IS DAMAGED BY FIRE

Winston-Salem, Feb. 16.—Flames detected shortly before 9 o'clock in the paper store rooms of the Twin City Sentinel here tonight caused damages, estimated by H. R. Dwire, editor, and R. A. Shore, business manager, to extend well into the thousands, although no exact estimate could be made until the mechanical equipment could be more closely examined.

REMOVE SECTION SENATOR'S SKULL

Senator Greene Shot In Battle Between Alleged Bootleggers And Officers.

EXPECT CONGRESS AIRING

Washington, Feb. 16.—An operation described as successful was performed late today upon Senator Frank L. Greene of Vermont, who was wounded in the head by a pistol bullet last night during a battle between alleged bootleggers and prohibition agents and police almost within the shadow of the Capitol.

Splinters of bone which were driven into his head by the stray bullet were removed, about one and one-half square inches of bone being taken out. Afterward attending surgeons said the Senator was "resting as comfortably as possible" and that "the prognosis is good, provided no complications set in." The operation was performed under a local anaesthetic.

The reverberations from the incident in the capital were almost as instantaneous and sharp as the battle itself, the entire prohibition enforcement situation, which for months has been the centre of criticism and controversy, being again projected into the forefront of discussion, with indications that the whole question will be aired in Congress.

President Takes Personal Interest
President Coolidge evidenced his personal interest in the situation by inquiring at the hospital concerning Mr. Greene's condition. At the same time some White House officials inquired of the police what action was being taken against those responsible and were informed that the cases of three men held in connection with the shooting were under consideration in the District Attorney's office.

The police refrained from discussing the affair, but intelligence officers of the Treasury were ordered to make a thorough investigation, while Roy A. Haynes, Prohibition Commissioner, declared the incident "a very unfortunate one."

The three men taken into custody were James Raymond Beavers of Silver Hill, Md., and Benjamin Chesavoir of this city, who the police said were believed to be bootleggers who had figured in the shooting, and O. E. Fisher, a prohibition agent, who is charged by the police with firing the shot which struck down Senator Greene.

Beavers and Chesavoir, who were apprehended by detectives after a chase across the Potomac into the Virginia hills, were released on \$30,000 bail each and Fisher was released on \$5,000 bond. The three are to appear in court Monday.

Shooting Brings Up Dry Row

The prohibition situation in Washington, for months a centre of criticism and controversy, culminated in the shooting of Senator Greene last night while he was walking with his wife almost within the shadow of the Capitol. As a result of the whole muddle of conflicting opinions, charges, explanations, denials and counter charges that have characterized efforts to enforce the prohibition laws here is expected to be thrashed out in Congress.

The incident was not the first in which the lives of those on the streets here have been endangered by pistol battles with bootleggers. Mad chases of that kind through the centre of the city have been numerous. There have

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TEACHERS' MEETING HELD HERE SATURDAY

A teachers meeting including seventh grade teachers and the Wilson's Mills Reading Circle Group was held here Saturday, about one hundred twenty-five teachers being in attendance. Miss Annie F. Nicholas of Four Oaks, has charge of the Reading Circle work, while Miss Mary E. Wells, assistant County superintendent, met with the seventh grade teachers.