

YOUNG MAN SHOT SEAMAN

TOO READY WITH RE-COURSE TO FIRE ARMS AND IN SERIOUS TROUBLE TWO THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND REQUIRED.

Fugh, Robertson, son of Chief of Police Jimmie Robertson of Edenton, shot and dangerously wounded a United States seaman named Raymond Harney on the government steamer El Freida about twelve o'clock Wednesday night.

Young Robertson is a deputy fish commissioner under Mr. Vann of Edenton. He has been with the State militia on the El Freida in the down sound section during the past week helping to enforce the fish law. The steamer arrived in port Wednesday afternoon for coal and provisions. Captain Daniels intended to return to the fishing grounds at Oregon Inlet Thursday morning.

About 11 o'clock Wednesday night young Robertson went down aboard the El Freida. He began to raise a disturbance with some member of the crew in the fore peak. The members of the crew who were tired and sleepy, complained to the officers as to the disturbance, and seaman Harney was sent down to quell the noise. He requested Robertson, who had been drinking and was noisy to be quiet. He became offended at Harney's words and threatened to use a knife on him, coupling his threats with an attempt to get hold of a knife lying near Harney. Harney knocked him down twice and informed him that if he did not behave himself, he would be put in chains. Harney said that he would leave the ship. This was agreeable to the officers, and he packed up his baggage and left. When he got on the dock he was seen to stoop down as if picking up something. No one paid any more attention to him.

Seaman Harney, who was undressed, went to report to the captain as to the disturbance. Young Harney had secured his pistol and had returned Harney, shooting at him five times, one shot striking him in the side and entering his body. The other shots went wild and struck no one. The officers of the ship arrested young Robertson and turned him over to the police, who had heard the shooting and were on the dock soon after the shooting occurred. He was lodged in jail and yesterday morning appeared before United States Commissioner T. B. Wilson for a preliminary hearing. The case was postponed until four o'clock to give his father time to get here to assist him in his defense.

Harney, the wounded seaman was sent to the naval hospital in Norfolk on the early morning train yesterday. The seriousness of his wounds could not be ascertained as a local surgeon who examined him could not locate the bullet.

The Preliminary Hearing

The preliminary hearing of young Robertson was removed from United States Commissioner T. B. Wilson's Court to the County Court and was held before Judge Sawyer. Attorneys Geo. W. Ward and W. L. Cohoon represented Robertson.

The first witness called was a young militiaman named Ruff of New Bern. He was an eye witness to the whole trouble that ended in the shooting. According to his testimony it was Ruff and Robertson who were freckling in the fore peak, that caused the disturbance. Seaman Harney went into the fore peak to get Robertson to desist from his boisterous conduct. Robertson became offended and threatened to use a knife. He went into the kitchen and Harney followed and struck him. Robertson left the ship and came back again. The firing began as soon as he stepped on deck.

A militiaman named Riggs of this city testified as to the cause of the disturbance having heard Robertson say to Harney, "You hit me when I

was doing nothing to you."

Officer McDaniels of New Bern, who was on watch gave testimony as to the disturbance and the cause that led to the shooting. He saw Harney strike Robertson when he reached his hand towards his suit near which was lying a butcher knife. He saw Robertson leave the ship and then return. He was standing between Robertson and Harney when the firing began and caught Robertson by the wrist and held his hands up after three shots had been fired. He forced Robertson into the galley and called Chief Master at Arm Tom Smith to take the pistol out of his hand.

Mr. Smith testified as to taking the pistol out of Robertson's hand, but knew nothing more about it only what he heard.

Dr. H. D. Walker testified as to the examination of Harney's wounds. He stated that the bullet entered the right side about three or four inches below the heart. The wound was an ugly one.

The witnesses testified that after Harney was shot, he ran away from the ship, returned, and ran away again and was found by his shipmates several squares away. Harney, was about twenty-one years old and his home is in Baltimore. His shipmates give him a good name as being a quiet easy sort of fellow.

After Judge Sawyer had heard the testimony and had received the information from Norfolk that his chances for recovery were good, he released young Robertson under a \$2,000 justified bail to appear here the first of May. The attorneys for the defendant agreed that if Harney's injuries proved fatal, that Judge Sawyer might have Harney re-arrested.

A member of the ship crew took Judge Sawyer to task after court, over the small amount of the bond and got in jail for contempt of court.

WILL MEET IN DEBATE

There will be a joint debate between the Elizabeth City graded school and the Washington graded school on the evening of April 12th in the auditorium of the high school. The subject for the discussion is, "Resolved that the United States Senators Shall be Elected By the People."

Some of the best speakers in the schools have been selected to debate this question. Debate with Washington added.

On last Monday a preliminary debate was held and Gregson Fearington and Vance Hooper were chosen to represent Elizabeth City in this debate.

Miss Mary Bright, who was the winner of one of the medals offered last Friday night, has been chosen to represent Elizabeth City in a recitation contest to occur in connection with the debate. A small admission fee will be charged to defray the expenses of the contest, Elizabeth City of course paying the expenses of the visitors.

NO PAVED STREETS TO NEGRO SCHOOL

Attorney W. L. Cohoon appeared before the Board of County Commissioners Monday with a request that a pavement be laid from the town limits to the colored normal school.

Mr. Cohoon gave as his reason for this request that the streets got muddy and the colored pupils of the school will probably have to get their feet muddy, whenever the weather is bad.

The commissioners could not see their way clear to grant this request on the ground that the white schools were not equipped with such conveniences.

LAW UPHELD ALONG COAST

COMMISSIONER VANN BRINGS FISHERMEN TO TERMS BUT SEASON ABOUT OVER AND THE VICTORY INDECISIVE.

Captain Daniels of the El Freida says that when he left Oregon Inlet Wednesday, there were about ten thousand gill nets setting out of bounds between Oregon Inlet and the south end of Roanoke Island. He stated that the fishermen were busy taking up these nets.

Three of the biggest pound net fishing concerns have been forced to take up their nets this week and several smaller concerns have moved. With ten thousand gill nets setting, it looks like the fish law is being violated on a pretty large scale. In fact, it suggests that the law was generally violated; and the fellow who obeys the law was setting his nets in open ground in self defense.

It is stated that the fishermen are taking up their nets. This appears satisfactory at first thought; but, if one thinks these violators of the law are not obeying the law so much after all. It is about time for the fishermen to take up their nets, as they seldom fish longer than the 10th of April in the down sound section. These fishermen turn this trick on the law every year. They set their nets out of bounds, violate the law, and press and squabble until the season is over. It remains to be seen whether they will be successful in doing this trick another season.

History of the Fish Row

During the past few years, the art of catching fish in this section has developed greatly. From the small fisherman with a few nets many of the citizens of Dare county, have grown into big fishermen with thousands of nets. Many learned the art of fishing with pound nets, the most destructive contraptions ever built to take fish. The most progressive and daring of these fishermen conceived the idea of setting their nets at the inlets, where the migratory fish enter the sounds. Here they caught them fresh from the ocean by thousands. The up-sound fishermen discovered that there was something wrong; that the fish were not coming up in the fresh waters to their spawning grounds. Catching fish at the inlets worked two ways against the inland fishermen. It catches the grown fish, and stops to a large degree the reproduction by preventing spawning. The fishing business has gone to the bad during the past few years. Scientists took a hand in the situation and upon investigation located the evil. Then the fish law was enacted compelling these selfish fishermen, some of whom have grown rich, to stop the practice of fishing around the inlets.

This law is what started the row that has caused the officers so much trouble. These down sound fishermen having had the utmost freedom all their lives in plying their vocation, consider the restricting law an infringement upon their rights which they were justified in evading and violating.

Mr. Theodore Meekins was the first fish commissioner. He failed to compel these fishermen to obey the law and gave up, apparently, in disgust. Mr. Vann of Edenton, was appointed to succeed him, and with his appointment began a new order of things among these violators of the law.

How the Fish Row Has Been Settled

These violators of the fish law having successfully broken it each year to their personal gains, began the old order of things the first of the year; that is to set their nets where they please. The same old row started and Mr. Vann appeared on the scene with an appeal for obedience to

the law. The appeal was ignored and Mr. Vann was threatened. He went to Raleigh to see the governor, and Governor Kitchin placed the State Militia at his disposal.

The El Freida, manned with 25 militiamen, left here Wednesday of last week under command of Mr. Vann. When the expedition arrived at the scene of disturbance, Mr. Sam Midgett, a pound net fisherman on a big scale had apparently taken his nets up. No nets were setting in his stand. Mr. Vann was skeptical about his ready obedience to the law and began to fish around with a boat hook. He soon found the nets lying on the bottom, having been cut down to fool Mr. Vann. When Mr. Midgett found that he (Mr. Vann) had discovered the trick, he was willing enough to move to save his property. Messrs. Daniels and Daum and others were suddenly seized with a desire to obey the law, if Mr. Vann would not confiscate their property. Mr. Vann graciously permitted this and thus far no property has been confiscated. All have pulled their stakes except Midgett, who lets them stay in the sound, so he says, to worry the fish commissioner. With the pound nets up, Mr. Vann turned his attention to the gill net fishermen. They all promised to move at once, and the same protection of property was promised them. When the El Freida left the fishing grounds Wednesday, they were busy moving nets.

The El Freida has returned to that section and will remain there until the last unlawfully set net is out of the sound.

MISSION SERVICES AT CHRIST'S CHURCH

Mission services have been in progress at Christ's church this week. Rev. John R. Matthews conducted the services.

The following program is being conducted:

- Opening services Monday, April 1st, 8 a. m.; Bible reading daily, except Good Friday, 9:00 a. m. Services with sermon by the missionary daily, 8:00 p. m.
- Good Friday: Holy Communion, 7:30 a. m. Morning prayer sermon, 11:00 a. m. Stainer's Musical Meditation, "The Crucifixion," 8:00 p. m.
- Easter Sunday: Holy Communion, 7:30 a. m.; Morning prayer and sermon, 11:00 a. m.; Sunday School services 3:00 p. m.; Services for men only 4:00 p. m.; Closing service of Mission, 8:00 p. m.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR ELKS

Tickets are on sale at Selig's for the Elks Big Minstrel which will be presented in the auditorium of the High School on the evening of April 11th.

The sale of seats has been numerous. A large audience will witness the performance.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR MEN ONLY

Rev. John R. Matthews will conduct services for Men Only next Sunday afternoon at four o'clock in Christ's church.

The men are requested to attend these services.

Mr. Matthews is an attractive speaker and will interest the congregation.

FIDDLING BOB TAYLOR IS DEAD

Washington.—Robert Love Taylor, senior United States Senator from Tennessee—"Fiddling Bob" to all the South—died here Sunday, unable to withstand the shock of an operation "for gall stones performed last Thursday.

Early Sunday morning the Senator began to fail to respond to stimulants. Mrs. Taylor worn out by a day and night vigil, had come to her apartment. At three o'clock Sunday morning the Senator began to sick so rapidly that she was sent for. She was at his side when the end came at 9:40 o'clock.

COMMISSIONERS REFUSED TO RE-DUCE COUNTY'S TAX

Many a plaintive tale is being put up by the delinquent taxpayers now for rebates and tax reliefs. The time for indulgence has expired and the taxpayers have got to come across. Now they are busy with the complaint of overcharges, etc.

Last Monday representatives of the Dare Lumber Company appeared before the Board of County Commissioners asking that the taxes of this company be reduced. About the only reason that they could suggest was, "because" the taxes were too much. They claimed: well, not anything particularly; but they just wanted to clear some of the eight on the phone to anxious inquirers.

The cause of all the jarring and rattling of windows was the concussion from the big guns in the target practice at Cape Henry, in which nineteen big battleships participated Monday morning. The reports of the explosions could be heard as well as the blocks felt.

BOARD HELD APRIL MEETING

The Board of Aldermen held a regular monthly meeting last Monday night. The aldermen were all present. Mayor Flora presided.

The paving of the sidewalks came up early in the meeting and received considerable attention. Much discussion was the result of the requests for paved sidewalks for various streets. Everybody wanted his sidewalks paved and the advocates of the different streets were insistent in the demands that their streets should be paved. After awhile the Board got down to business and allowed quite a good sized budget for sidewalk paving. Mayor Flora took occasion to state that it will be some time before all of these sidewalks get paved.

Dyer street is to be paved on the West side from Main and Parsonage streets and on the east side from Main to Cedar streets. Poindexter street is to be paved on the west side from the bridge to Pearl street. Bell street is to be paved from Road street to Railroad street, three feet wide. Fearling street on the north side, from Poindexter to Road street, five feet wide, and from Road to Perse street, three feet wide. Church street is to be paved from Culpepper Purse streets, three feet wide, Church four feet wide.

On motion it was ordered that J. B. Fearling be given ten days to drain a ditch next to Gordon's on Riverside avenue.

After the sidewalk paving matter had been disposed of the regular routine of business was taken up. The reports of the various town officers were received, monthly bills audited and allowed.

A number of petitions in regard to rebate on taxes and tax reliefs were presented and acted upon by the board.

The city health officer made his monthly report. The report showed that thirteen deaths and thirteen births had occurred during the month of March. The health conditions of the town were reported to be good and the condition of the dairies and meat markets were reported to be good. One arrest was reported for last month. A negro butcher named Warrens was arrested for selling tainted meats. He was convicted and fined ten dollars.

There was no report on the condition of the water. The last analysis showed the water to be only fair, and the health officer regards it unfit for drinking purposes. The board on motion, decided to hold a special meeting on Thursday night and to discuss the water situation, and to take some action in an attempt to solve the existing evils.

CITY FATHERS DELAY ACTION

ANOTHER MEETING WITHOUT DEFINITE STEPS TOWARD IMPROVING THE CITY'S WATER.

The Board of Aldermen met in special session last night to discuss and if possible take some action in regard to the water situation, such conditions existing as to have given rise to no little complaint on the part of those using this water.

Mr. Lewis was present and presented the case of the water company. He claimed that the water supplied to the city is suitable for drinking purposes and that the analysis of the State chemist bears out his contention. The fact, he declared, that this analysis showed only a trace of objectionable matter indicates that such matter is not present in sufficient degree to endanger health.

Much discussion of Mr. Lewis' report ensued. Some were of the opinion that the source of contamination is the closets of the Foreman Blades Lumber Company which stand directly over the water about three quarters of a mile below the intake. It was suggested that pollution from this source might be prevented by a dam just below the intake, or by moving the intake.

City Health Officer, Dr. I. Fearling, recommended that an inspection of the water-shed be made every week and that all residents on it be required to provide sanitary closets as required by law in such cases; that the intake be moved from its present location that Knobs creek be dammed so as to prevent contamination from below the intake.

The board adjourned without taking any action on the matter, agreeing to give the water company until the first regular meeting in May to offer some solution to the difficulty. Mr. Lewis declared himself confident that by that time the company would have such plans formulated and under way as to appease popular clamor and criticism.

MEDAL CONTEST AT GRADED SCHOOLS

The medal contest was held in the auditorium of the high school last Friday evening. The contest was between members of the high school classes and members of the grammar school classes for medals for excellency in the art of declaiming and reciting. These medals are given annually by Superintendent Sheep.

There were a number of participants in both classes. Miss Mary Bright won the girl's medal for the best recitation, and Vernon Jenkins won the boy's medal for the best declamation in the high school classes. Miss Amy Haight won the medal for best recitation by a girl, and Charles Ives won the medal for the best declamation by a boy in the grammar school classes.

Messrs. R. W. Turner, L. S. Blades, and W. L. Cohoon were the judges for the boys; and Mrs. H. D. Walker, Mrs. A. B. Hontz and Mrs. Glenn Hudson were the judges for the girls. Mr. R. W. Turner presented the medals to the successful contestants in happily worded speeches. There was a large audience presence to witness the exercises.