

NEWS WITHOUT
BIAS
VIEWS WITHOUT
PREJUDICE

THE ADVANCE

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JUDGE WANTS CHAIN GANG HERE REORGANIZED TOP TO BOTTOM

Says Will Strive to Send no More Prisoners to Work In Pasquotank Until All Old Officers Are Removed

The investigation of the county chain gang instituted by Judge Carter last Tuesday was held at the afternoon session of the Superior Court on Saturday.

Agents of the express company, the Norfolk Southern and the Peoples Line were sworn and testified as to the liquor received here by the guards at the convict camp.

Mr. C. W. Johnson of the Southern Express Company was the first witness sworn. He testified and produced records to show that during the last seventeen months Mr. Cartwright had received 184 quarts of liquor at the Express office. Mr. J. H. Snowden, freight agent for the Norfolk Southern testified that Mr. Cartwright had received no shipment by freight during that period. Mr. J. H. Snowden of the Peoples Line testified that Cartwright had received 67 qts. through his company's office, making a total of 251 quarts.

Mr. Curles, for eight days a guard in the convict camp, was then sworn and examined. Mr. Curles testified that the other guards drank freely while he was at the chain gang and when under the influence of liquor abused the prisoners and used them harshly. He said that the prisoners were treated all right when the guards were not drinking and during the eight days he was employed as a guard he did not see a convict struck.

The judge then gave Mr. G. M. Scott, chairman of the County Commissioners, Mr. E. S. Scott Road Manager, and Harris and Cartwright, the two convict guards, opportunity to make any statement if they desired to do so.

Mr. G. M. Scott rose and stated that he was ready to answer any questions that might be asked him. Judge Carter replied that there were no questions that he had to put to Mr. Scott and said further that the reprimand that he had administered to Mr. Scott in court last Wednesday should have been administered to the Road Manager.

Mr. E. S. Scott also expressed a willingness to answer any questions that might be asked him but he had no statement and the court did not catechize him.

Cartwright and Harris both appealed themselves of their constitutional privilege and declined to go on the stand.

The Judge concluded the investigation with the following statement:

"The matter under consideration here, under immediate consideration, is the solicitor's prayer for judgment in the State vs Grant Eason.

"Serious doubts having been

suggested to my mind as to whether I could, with due regard to the dictates of the most ordinary humanity, send this prisoner to the Pasquotank County Chain Gang, I instituted this inquiry in order to inform myself upon that point.

"The first thing I did was to have the entire convict force brought into Court, and I took the men one by one in a private room, with no one present except myself and Mr. Boettcher here, who had been designated as the official stenographer of this investigation, and the person being presently examined.

"I took this course for two reasons. One was the natural indisposition of a prisoner to give testimony which would be calculated to incur the enmity of his keeper; and the other was that I might hear these men separately, that no one should be able to know what any other had said, that I might the better judge as to whether I was getting the truth.

"In hearing these men I studied them to the best of my ability. I found amongst them some persons who showed considerable evidences of depravity; I found others, and a large majority of them, in fact, who were certainly not depraved or dangerous men. Many of them were comparatively young boys, and as to more than half of them I was convinced of their candor, of their simplicity and of their comparative docility. Some of them impressed me most favorably, and it is impossible, and I pause by the way to remark, that there are a number of men on the Pasquotank County Chain Gang that I do believe could have been dealt with better in some other way. I do not implicitly rely upon all the statements that were made to me; I do not accept as true any statement that was made to me on that hearing except those statements that received such corroboration in the statement of the other prisoners as to convince me of its truth. I not only heard these statements of these men, but I permitted some of them to exhibit to me the scars left by wounds which they claimed to have received in brutal whippings upon that Chain Gang; and others exhibited to me open running sores that had every appearance of having been caused by friction of their iron shackles, that were on their legs and ankles where the shackles were, and they had every appearance of being sores caused by the working of the iron upon their limbs. . . .

"The testimony was so unanimous and so spontaneous upon one point that there is no possi-

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GUARD BEATEN REID ESCAPED

Convict Got Full of Liquor and Thought He Could Run Chain Gang

William Harris, guard among a group of trustees who were camped on the suburbs of the town, was assaulted by one prisoner last Thursday night and very severely beaten up.

The trustees appear to have enjoyed unusual liberties. A group left camp Thursday evening shortly after supper without troubling to ask permission and stopped at a house on Brick street about two hundred yards from the camp. There one of their number named William Reid left the rest and came into town where he proceeded to tank up on blind tiger liquor. The rest of the group at about nine o'clock returned to the camp.

At about midnight one of the convicts named Tim King was aroused by some unusual noise and awaked to find Oeid fumbling about the bedclothes of a guard named Scott—who is old and one-legged. King claims that he expostulated with Reid and led him off to bed. Their conversation aroused Harris who went outside the tent. A moment later the negro Reid went out also by another exit.

A few seconds after those within the tent heard the sound of a heavy blow and this was followed by cries for help. A number of the convicts going out found Reid had assaulted Harris and was beating him about the face with his fists. King claims, and is corroborated by the guard himself, that he went to Harris' assistance and pinioned Reid's arms to his sides but he says he was not able to prevent Reid's kicking the guard "till he got tired kicking."

Having attended to Harris the half drunken negro then proceeded without hindrance to break into the chest where the arms were kept. He took such firearms as pleased his fancy and amused himself for awhile by pointing a gun at the guards and convicts and to use his own language "running the camp to suit himself". He finally left and has not been heard of since.

Reid was convicted of murder or manslaughter in Currituck and the working of this prisoner on the public roads was a violation of law. He should have been sent to the penitentiary at Raleigh. How he got to be a trusty has never been explained.

There was strong feeling in town on the morning after the beating up of Harris that Judge Carter's warning to the guards, in the presence of the convicts, not to lay the weight of their hands upon their prisoners under penalty of the law was responsible for the outbreak against authority among the trustees. When it was learned that only one man had assaulted Harris and that the others had made no attempts to abet Reid in his assault upon the guard, the atmosphere cleared up somewhat.

EDUCATION IS MORE THAN DUCKS

So Thinks Correspondent From Kitty Hawk Who Reads Advance

Editor THE ADVANCE:—

Some time ago I read in your columns an article in regard to the schools of Currituck County, and I wish to say that I greatly admire the way Mr. Cox, the author of the article, wrote.

I was talking with a gentleman in regard to the article and he said that he thought Mr. Cox spoke of us as being too ignorant. But I do not think so. I wish every parent in this county could see the importance of the school question in our county. If they could there would be greater effort toward better schools throughout the entire county.

If Mr. Cox is in earnest in what he says about the schools and about better roads, I certainly hope he will go to the legislature for I think we need to have the subject changed from ducks to something of more importance.

"X"

BOATS TO RACE AT WATERLILLY

Interesting Event to Be Held For Good Roads On Church's Island

Waterlilly, N. C., Sept. 26th.—The biggest boat race ever seen in Currituck County is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd.

The boats will start from Waterlilly pier at eleven o'clock Saturday morning, and all power boats have the opportunity to join in this race.

In Class I boats of from four to six horse power are admitted and the premium awarded in this race will be a beautiful silver cup.

In Class II boats of from six to eight horse power may be entered and the prize for the winner is a large purse.

In Class III any boats may be entered. This is the Scrub Race and the prize is a small purse.

A splendid dinner will be served of oysters, fish, and other delicious sea food.

The proceeds of the day will go toward the betterment of the roads of Churches Island. The ladies of the Good Roads Society are grateful to the people of Currituck for their former cooperation in this work and cordially invite them to come out to these races, enjoy the day's program, and by doing so help in this very worthy cause.

Three convicts were brought before Judge Turner Saturday morning upon the charge of abetting Reid in his assault, but the prisoners were dismissed.

WILD WEST SHOW HERE THURSDAY

Time Near at Hand For Appearance of Famous Aggregation

The 101 Ranch Real Wild West Show which is coming to Elizabeth City next Thursday Oct. 1st for two performances will give the people of this vicinity an opportunity of seeing the greatest western exhibition ever conceived. From the standpoint of both magnitude and merit this western aggregation is in a class by itself. Three long trains of double length cars are required to convey it through the country and over six hundred men, women and horses participate in the performances. In every city where this stupendous show has come its thousands of patrons have been unanimous in claiming it to be the most wonderful exhibit of modern times. The show comes direct from the great 101 Ranch at Bliss Oklahoma, which is the largest Ranch in the world and from it the show derives its name. Miller Brothers the owners of the Ranch are joint owners with Edward Arlington in the show. Unlike other so-called wild west shows the 101 Ranch does not tolerate any thing that is not purely western. There is nothing from any other section of the universe around it. It is of the west and purely western. On the morning of the day of exhibition, a free street parade will be given, which is over a mile in length and full of new interesting features, including Indians of every tribe not yet extinct. This parade should be seen by all whether the performances are attended or not. Two performances will be given, an afternoon performance at two o'clock and the evening performance at eight fifteen o'clock. The doors to the Indian village and band concert will open one hour in advance of each performance.

Patrons may feel safe with this show, as no gambling or catch-penny devices are tolerated either on the grounds or around them. The show carries its own and knowing this, the dishonestly inclined give it a wide berth. One ticket is all that is required to visit every department of the big show. Comfortable seats with back and foot rest are provided for ten thousand people.

Seats on sale all day at Seelye Jewelry store.

EATING MULLET'S CAUSED DEATH

Man in Prime of Life Succumbs to Promaine Poison in Edenton

News has been received here of the death at his home in Edenton of Mr. A. J. Ward, brother in law of Mr. C. J. Ward of this city.

The death occurred Friday evening at about nine o'clock and the funeral took place on the Sunday following.

Mr. Ward, who was a Main street grocer and market man at Edenton, went down to his work Friday morning in his usual health. He complained during the day and at about three o'clock in the afternoon was taken violently sick. Endeavoring to keep the news of his illness from his home through fear of distressing his wife he remained at the store until nearly nine o'clock but the physician summoned was not able to give him any relief. Shortly before nine o'clock it was decided to remove him to his home and he had hardly been placed on the bed when he expired.

It appears that Mr. Ward was poisoned by some fish he had eaten at home for breakfast. The fish eaten were part of a shipment of mullets to Edenton and several other families that ate them were made very sick. In all other cases, however, the physician was able to accord relief.

It is believed that the fish were contaminated through careless handling or improper packing in their shipment.

Mr. Ward is survived by a wife and two children. His eldest son, a young man of about twenty four years who has a position at an Edenton bank, was also taken sick but recovered and was at his father's bedside at the time of his death.

AT CHRIST CHURCH

Mr. Ashby has given notice that the Bishop will visit Christ Church Sunday, November 8th and requests all who wish to join this congregation then to let him know as soon as possible.

A Bible Class for Ladies has been organized and will meet at the rectory every Friday afternoon at four. The Book of Job will now be studied, to be followed by Ecclesiastes and Revelation.

The delegates to the diocesan Council which meets at Washington October 7th to elect a bishop are Dr. J. H. White, J. C. H. Ehringhaus, F. G. Jacobs, and W. G. G. G. G. All expect to attend the Council.

The general Convention of the Brotherhood of St Andrew meets in Atlanta, Ga., October 14th to 18th. This is one of the largest gatherings of men in the Episcopal Church. The chapter here hopes to send a delegate and Mr. Ashby also hopes to go.

Tilman F. Payne of Mamee, N. C. and Miss Maude Muller of Ocean View, were married Wednesday afternoon by Justice of the Peace, J. W. Munden in the parlors of the Arlington Hotel.

A Correction

In the statement of the Savings Bank and Trust Company published in last Friday's Advance the item Deposits Subject to Check should have been \$63,223.25, and Time Certificates of Deposit should have been \$3,067.22. In some way these amounts were transposed in the statement. The total deposits of \$325,189.10, as published, were correct.