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The Daily Advance

THE WEATHER
Cloudy tonight and Sunday, probably rain tonight in extreme north portion. Fresh S. and S. E. winds.

EXTRA 5C.

ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1921

EXTRA 5C.

Triple Tragedy At Southern Hotel

Man Kills Wife And Shoots Girl And Self

With Bullet Through Brain Man Lives For Hours—Girl Has Slight Chance To Recover

A triple tragedy was enacted at the Southern Hotel Sunday night shortly after the arrival of the night express when John E. Emory of Norfolk shot and killed his wife, Mrs. Grace Emory, shot three times and probably fatally wounded Miss Eva Harrell of Norfolk and then fired a bullet into his own brain. The girl, who is only eighteen years of age, may perhaps recover. She was shot in the left shoulder, thru the mouth, the ball splitting her upper lip and passing out through the right jaw; and also through the abdomen, the ball entering at the back and lodging under the skin after passing through her body.

The two women were prisoners at the hotel, having been brought here from Norfolk by Chief Holmes about six o'clock Sunday evening. Thinking the jail no fit place for women the Chief made arrangements for them to stay at the Southern, and officer Comstock was on guard at their door expecting momentarily to be relieved by Officer Webb.

Emory came in on the night train. He had been drinking and appeared nervous but talked coherently. He went to the desk at the Southern to register and, telling the night clerk that one of the women in room 210 was his wife started to assign himself to the same room.

"Hold on, you can't do that said the clerk. I'll assign you a room if you want one," and he did assign the man to a room on the next floor.

Mr. Spence, proprietor of the hotel had been down to the train with a friend and after Emory had registered asked him if he wished to go to his room.

"No replied Emory, "I want to go down to the police station first." Here the story is taken up by officer Comstock.

Emory approached the door of room number 210 and inquired of Comstock, who was on guard:

"What time is court in the morning."

"Nine o'clock was the answer. Are you from Norfolk?"

"No I'm from Michigan," said Emory; and according to Officer Comstock, Emory disappeared down the hall.

"I stepped down the hall to a bathroom for a drink of water, and when I left the door was locked on the inside," says Officer Comstock. "While I was in the bathroom I heard shots. I rushed back to the room and the door was open. The girl lay bleeding in the doorway. The

man and wife were across the bed in their own blood. All of them were still living."

Medical aid was promptly summoned, Dr. T. S. McMullan, rooming in the building. Dr. I. Fearing and Dr. Z. Fearing were also summoned, and what medical skill could do was done for the sufferers. Then began the long vigil till morning. Mrs. Emory died at 1.58.

The man was still living when this paper went to press.

The girl will be taken to Norfolk to a hospital on the early morning train.

So ends a story that had its beginning Saturday evening when Camden Blades drove the Blades Cadillac car down to Spence & Hollowell's about half past eight to get something from the store for a customer.

They left the car at the curb and went up on the third story on the elevator. When young Blades and the customer came down the car was gone.

The police were immediately notified and it was found that a car answering the description of the Blades car had crossed the Camden Ferry bridge at about nine o'clock. Other towns and cities were notified of the theft and the car was picked up in South Norfolk. In it at the time were Mrs. Emory, Miss Harrell, J. R. Sawyer who is in Pasquotank county jail, and another man who was driver and who escaped. Discovering that he was pursued the driver headed his car for a passing freight, threw on his breaks as he neared the track and jumped. It is supposed that he caught the train.

Camden Blades and Chief Holmes went down to Norfolk on the early train Sunday morning to get the car and those who were its occupants when it was taken, all of them having been taken in custody. Mr Emory begged permission to come to Elizabeth City with his wife but Holmes saw that he had been drinking and refused to let him do so.

"My refusal probably saved my life," says the Chief.

John E. Emory has the appearance of a man about thirty-five years old. He was well built and well dressed. In his pocket was an income tax blank filled out and showing that for the last year his income was \$3,000. There was also a bank book showing that he was a regular depositor at the Norfolk National Bank and indicating that he had kept a good balance and that the amount at one time was \$1800. He shot himself in the back of his head and the bullet is lodged in his skull just back of the right eye, discoloration of the skin indicating its presence. Grace Emory was formerly a

Miss Ballance. Her father is Captain Henry Ballance of Mooneypoint, Va., but formerly of Dare county, who is known here and has relatives in the city. She had recently separated from her husband, leaving a note to him saying that she had become tired of living with him. Her father is expected to arrive in the city Monday morning. She was shot through the head the ball entering on the back and coming out above the left eye.

Eva Harrell's mother is dead. Her father lives in Brimbleton, Norfolk. Communicated with over long distance telephone during the night, he is quoted as saying he wished Emory had killed her and he did not care what became of her.

She admits that she opened the door for Emory.

The weapon which Emory used was a patent automatic, apparently of a foreign manufacture. On the barrel it bore the name "J. P. Sauer & Sohn, Suhl." On the stock was the number 9563 and "Cal. 7.65." Emory used 32 caliber steel jacketed bullets and five empty cartridges in the weapon bore mute witness that not a shot had gone wild.

Other details of the affair may be aired in police court Monday morning.

Hostilities Begin Vicinity of Coto

Panama, Feb. 26 (By The Associated Press)—Hostilities have begun between Panaman and Costa Rican forces in the vicinity of Coto on the Pacific end of the frontier between the two countries, according to unofficial dispatches. Official confirmation is lacking. Formal declaration of war had not been made up to late last night.

Each Twilight Team Has Own President

The Elizabeth City Twilight League Baseball Association held their scheduled meeting Friday night in the Y. M. C. A. and elected Bert Parsons as vice president and J. H. Snowden as secretary-treasurer for the coming year.

The league this year is organized along more business like lines than heretofore. Each team in the league is represented by a president who has absolute authority for the team he represents. This method will do away with most arguments which were generally left to the opposing teams to settle among themselves.

Those present last night were John Wells, president of the league; J. H. Snowden, secretary; M. E. Dennis, representing the Red Men; J. W. Selig representing the Elks, and C. V. Ballard representing the Cubs.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 9th, in the Chamber of Commerce club rooms in the Hinton Building.

EDWIN DENBY AT ST. AUGUSTINE

To Talk Over Duties of Secretary of Navy With President-Elect Harding — Seal Appointment Today

St. Augustine, Feb. 26.—Edwin Denby, once an ordinary gob, recently sergeant in the marines, and under the official slate of the coming administration is overthrown, Secretary of the Navy-to-be, talked over naval policies with Harding today in a conference which is expected to finally seal his appointment to the cabinet.

AT SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING Superintendent S. L. Sheep is in Atlantic City attending the national meeting of school superintendents now in session there.

DIVERS OPINIONS FILLING THE AIR

Babel of Voices Goes Up From Business Men And Merchants On One Hand And City Council On Other

Members of the City Council, or a number of them at any rate, are disposed to think that not only section one of Representative Cooke's Charter bill ought to be repealed. They would like to see the whole bill knocked in the head. That it may be not without some good points they admit. But they maintain that it was sneaked through the General Assembly without notice to the Council or to the general public; that it is too late now for intelligent discussion before the close of this session of the Assembly, and that the best thing to do is to kill the whole measure. It is altogether possible that the Council may send a representative to Raleigh next week armed with a petition signed by every member of the Council to seek the repeal of every section of the measure.

The action of the Merchants' Association and Chamber of Commerce passing a resolution condemning the new license schedule bill drawn at the behest of the Council and sent to Representative Cooke for passage at this session of the Legislature still riles members of the Council also. They join City Manager Commander in protesting with no little vehemence that the merchants are the ones who have been guilty of high handed methods and not the Council.

City Manager Commander admits that he drew up the schedule but he says he drew it up only after a careful study of the license taxes in other towns and after careful consideration of local conditions also. He says further that after drawing it up he presented it to a committee of the Council who went over it carefully and passed it. He then presented it, he says, to the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce who endorsed it. He says further that he showed it to numbers of prominent citizens, among others to W. O. Saunders, all of whom were willing to let it go through.

There are also members of the Council who say that the matter was taken before the Merchants Association before the "indignation meeting" held this week and that the suggestion of these representatives of the city government was that the bill should be sent for and gone over before the Merchants Association and any inequalities smoothed out. Members of the Council feel that their authority was flouted when the Merchants Association, after a hasty reading of the schedule of licenses, condemned the bill in its entirety and sent it back to the County Representative without a word to the City Council. They feel that the merchants should have taken the matter up first with the Council. City Manager Commander goes so far as to say that the chief reason for the merchants' indignation was a misunderstanding of the schedule thru confusion of the license with the bond required of certain companies or businesses to hold the city harmless against damage to the street or such matter by these companies or businesses.

Again members of the Council feel that in fighting the passage of a bill providing a new schedule of licenses for Elizabeth City and in seeking to impose a property tax for the purchase of new fire fighting equipment the merchants are evading their share of the expense of the purchase of such fire fighting apparatus. They point out that the aerial truck, which is the chief item of expense in the Fire Department budget, is for the protection of the business district alone as this piece of equipment will not be needed in fighting fires in the residence district.

"Then take my own case as an example," says Councilman P. C. Cochran. "When I pay my fire insurance premium it is a double premium because I am outside the fire protection district. And yet under this proposed bill I will have to pay just as much tax on the hundred dollars valuation of my property as does the man in the business district who enjoys the advantage of the fullest fire protection. I am not speaking for myself, however, but for the hundreds of other small property own-

Mrs. Varner Is Found Guilty

Greensboro, Feb. 26.—The federal court jury in the case of Mrs. Florence Varner, who sued her husband, Col. Henry B. Varner, Lexington publisher, for support today, returned a verdict for the defendant after two days deliberation.

One issue required the jury to find whether she was guilty or not of the charge of improper relations with Baxter McRary, a wealthy negro of Lexington. The jury answered this affirmatively.

BESTCITY ENTERS STATE DEBATE

And In Triangle With Edenton and Hertford Again This Year

Chapel Hill, Feb. 26 (Special)—That Elizabeth City High School debaters will again contest with Edenton and Hertford in the state-wide triangular debates was announced today by E. R. Rankin, secretary of the High School Debating Union of North Carolina. The query which will be discussed this year is: Resolved, That the policy of the open shop should prevail in American industry. It is expected that 225 schools representing 90 counties will participate in these debates.

In other triangles arranged in this section of the state are: Currituck, Moyock and Poplar Branch; Manteo, Shiloh and South Mills; Gatesville, Reynoldson and Sunbury. Two dual debates have also been arranged between Columbia and Roper and Windsor and Woodland.

The High School Debating Union was inaugurated eight years ago and each successive year debates on timely subjects have been held to the benefit of both the participants and their communities. The number of schools in this union, and thereby the number of people reached by the discussion, has increased rapidly with each new year. It is said to be a conservative estimate that an average of 80,000 people have listened to the discussions each year.

Last year the Aycock Memorial Cup was won by the Asheville High School; the year before that by the Durham High School. Currituck and Roper by winning both sides of their debates gained the right to enter their teams in the preliminaries at Chapel Hill.

The triangular and dual debates will be held throughout the state the latter part of March and the final contest at the University will be held early in April. Those schools which win both sides of their query will meet at Chapel Hill for the preliminaries and semi-finals. The final debate which determines the winner of the Aycock Memorial Cup will take place the night following the preliminaries.

The Debating Union is training high school students to take active and constructive places in college and in life. All three of the representatives of the University in the Carolina-Pennsylvania debates this year once took part in the high school triangular debates. Most of the participants in the past debates are now making good in business life and many are successful lawyers.

On April 14-15 at the same time the finals at Chapel Hill a state interscholastic track meet and tennis tournament will be held.

U. S. INTERVENTION CONSIDERED REMOTE

Washington, Feb. 26.—Intercession by the United States in the Panama-Costa-Rican conflict continues to appear remote. Should it endanger American lives and property a special Latin American squadron might be ordered to Panama.

ers whose case is similar to mine."

The foregoing views were brought out at an informal meeting of the City Council at which there was not a quorum present Friday afternoon. Inasmuch as the viewpoint of the merchants was set forth in a news story on the front page of this paper one day last week, that of the City Council—so far as the sense of that body was to be ascertained from expressions from members attending the informal meeting—is set forth in this issue as a matter of common fairness and also as a matter of general interest.

HAS REPEALED SECTION ONE

Griffin Introduces Measure in Senate to Make Void Recent Changes in Elizabeth City Corporate Limits

Cooke Repeals City Limit Section
The following telegram was received in the city Saturday morning from Representative Cooke: "I repealed section one of charter bill yesterday."

Raleigh, Feb. 26 (Special)—Senator Griffin has introduced a bill to repeal section one of the Cooke bill passed this session, relating to the corporate limits of Elizabeth City.

While the road bill had right-of-way Friday, motion picture censorship edged its way in ahead of the road bill and consumed about two hours of mighty valuable time in the Senate before it could be disposed of. One-half of the discussion of the proposal to re-refer the bill to the committee on education came after the motion to table had been made, and was in the opinion of some members of the Senate out of order.

A bill to be entitled an act to authorize, empower and direct the governor and council of state to sell the state's stock in the North Carolina railroad and the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad, and with the proceeds of said sales to construct, operate and maintain a railroad from North Wilkesboro to Maymead, Tennessee, connecting the terminal of the Winston-Salem division and the Appalachia division of the Southern railway; and also completing the construction of the Elkin and Alleghany railroad, the Watauga and Yadkin River railroad, and thereby constituting a trunk line of railroads from the northwest section to the southwest section of the State, from Bristol, Virginia, to Wilmington, North Carolina, and also redeeming the "Lost Provinces" of North Carolina. This is the title of a bill introduced in the lower branch of the General Assembly Friday morning by Representative Tam Bowie, of Ashe County.

Passage of the municipal finance act as amended, the introduction of petitions of protest from farmers against revaluation, consideration of the revenue bill and passage of many local bills consumed the day's session.

OKLAHOMA CITY HAS A BIG FIRE

Flames Break Out In City Hall, Are Brought Under Control Finally By Eight Fire Companies

Oklahoma City, Feb. 26.—Fire causing, it is estimated, damage of \$300,000, broke out in the city hall here shortly before midnight.

The flames were brought under control at 1:30 this morning by eight fire companies.

Valuable records were destroyed.

Labor Council Meets To Protest

Washington, Feb. 26.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor met here today to consider the action of the government in prosecuting officials of the United Mine Workers for alleged violation of the Anti-Trust Sherman Act.

Matthew Wolf, vice president of the Federation, declared that the indictment of the mine workers struck at the very foundation of collective bargaining.

FORGED PASSPORTS ARE BEING ISSUED

Washington, Feb. 26.—Forged passports to enable undesirable dangerous aliens to enter the United States are being issued in almost every European country, the State Department announced today. Passport swindlers have been operating on a wholesale scale.