

Albemarle Bank Closes Doors Pending Survey Of Financial Situation

Examiner Summoned from Raleigh to Investigate Condition; Expected to Arrive Monday

MAY BE TEMPORARY Hope Held Forth That Depositors May be Protected; Other Three Banks Are Not Affected

The Albemarle Bank, colored institution which has been in operation here for the last five years, closed its doors Thursday morning pending arrival of a bank examiner from Raleigh to go over its resources and liabilities.

Whether the bank's embarrassment is only temporary in nature will be disclosed after the State Corporation, through an examiner who probably will arrive Monday morning, has made a thorough survey of the situation.

The closing of the Albemarle Bank will not in any way affect the three white banks in the city, officials of the Elizabeth City Clearing House Association declared, explaining that the colored bank was not a member of the association, and has been operated entirely independently of the others.

Lack of funds due to slow collections is the reason ascribed for the closing. The bank recently underwent a heavy drain on its cash in hand through the payment of a large amount in Christmas savings accounts. Its funds largely are tied up in long term real estate loans, it is understood, and this made it impossible for the institution to meet the heavy Christmas demands of depositors.

Whether the depositors will be protected could not be learned Wednesday. Efforts to get in touch with W. H. Holland, cashier, has been regarded as probable that nothing definite will be known as to the situation until a bank examiner has gone over the accounts.

Holland, the cashier, has been regarded as thoroughly reliable and trustworthy by officials of the other banks here, who state that his dealings with him have been entirely satisfactory at all times.

One reason ascribed for the closing is that the Albemarle Bank has been hard put to it to build up sufficient business to meet its expenses of operation in the last two or three years. A strong hope is expressed, however, that the condition of the institution will be found such as to justify its re-opening in the early future.

FOUR INDICTMENTS IN LYNCHING CASE

Clarkdale, Miss., Dec. 24.—Four indictments were returned shortly before noon today by the Coahoma county grand jury which was convened in special session Tuesday to investigate lynchings Saturday night of Lindsey Coleman, negro.

GIVES STOCKHOLDERS CHRISTMAS PRESENT

New York, Dec. 24.—The Standard Oil Company a New York today gave its stockholders a Christmas present by declaring a dividend of 25 per cent.

MRS. C. L. LASSITER DEAD

Mrs. C. L. Lassiter, aged 28, died Thursday night at 6:35 o'clock at the residence, 206 East Burgess street, after a long illness. Besides her husband, she is survived by two sons, Lockwood and Albert Lassiter, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Steele, of New London, Connecticut.

The funeral services will be conducted at the home by the Rev. S. Love, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock and burial made in Hollywood Cemetery.

FOUR KILLED AND SEVEN INJURED IN TRAIN SMASH

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 24.—Four men, two engineers and two firemen, were reported killed and many passengers badly shaken up in a head on collision between two Atlantic Coast Line Railroad trains south of Moultrie, S. C., today. Among the passengers on the train was John W. Weeks, former Secretary of War, who was slightly injured. Two engines were smashed and seven cars derailed.

Engineer Herbert Paris of Florence, South Carolina, and Fireman O. Heston of the same city, were killed. Engineer J. E. Cummings of Savannah and a man named Williams are missing and thought to be dead. A relief train with doctors and nurses, accompanied by a wrecking train, have been dispatched to the scene of the accident.

ARMY OF BOOZE BOUND FOR WEST

Caravans Cross Stretches of Unpatrolled Border to the Interior

By OWEN L. SCOTT (Copyright, 1925, by The Advance) Chicago, Dec. 24.—An army of booze runners, piloting trucks loaded with Christmas cheer, is headed down the cross roads of Canada to supply the liquor wants of America's great Midwest.

Such is the story in circulation here, following reports from correspondents in the northern provinces. They say that big caravans of booze-carrying trucks have crossed the green stretches of unpatrolled border between Canada and the United States, and are headed for the interior.

Liquor and wines, from 20 to 200 cases piled on the trucks and big cars, are said to make up the cargo. One outfit of 50 cars is said to have crossed the border last night.

Financial attractions of the Christmas booze-running business are reported to have drawn the best of the professional drivers and mechanics in Winnipeg. They are said to get \$1,000 for making the trip to Minneapolis with a wet cargo and \$1,500 for getting through to Chicago.

This liquor is expected to dampen what E. C. Yellowley, prohibition administrator for this district, today said was an exceptionally dry situation. Intoxicants, he declared, are scarcer this year than ever before.

MRS. BULLA'S FATHER DEAD

Dr. and Mrs. Mora Bulla left Tuesday for Richmond, Indiana, their old home, to which they were taking the body of Mrs. Bulla's father, William Schooley, for burial. Mr. Schooley, who had made his home here with Dr. and Mrs. Bulla for several months, died Monday. Dr. and Mrs. Bulla are not expected to return to Elizabeth City until next week.

DESTINY POST OFFICE

IN COMPLIANCE WITH A recent order from the Postmaster General there will be no window or delivery service at the Elizabeth City Post Office Christmas Day, except special delivery and perishable packages. Outgoing mail will be dispatched as usual and the incoming mail will be put in the post office boxes.

Effective Checks and blais are the newest thing in hosiery for street wear. The ones shown may be of silk or hals, and should go well with the snake and lizard footwear which is so popular.

GENERAL BUTLER SHORN OF HALO OF MARTYRDOM

Booted Out of His Job With As Little Ceremony As He Showed Philadelphia Politicians HE MADE ELLIOTT

B. ROWLAND WOOD (Copyright, 1925, by The Advance) Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—Booted out of his job with as little ceremony as he showed the Philadelphia politicians with whom he had clashed, Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, the fighting Marine, who came to purify the City of Brotherly Love, today found himself shorn even of the halo of martyrdom with which he had hoped to depart.

Mayor Freeland Kendrick abruptly removed the halo when he announced his determination to appoint the doughty general as director of public safety with George W. Elliott, who has been Butler's assistant, his bosom friend and his right hand man, ever since he came to Philadelphia.

From a political viewpoint, the appointment of Elliott was a Kendrick ten-strike. Not only has Elliott been Butler's first assistant but he even had made himself more popular with a large section of the "reform" or "church" element, which was Butler's strength, than is the general himself. Elliott is one of the "church crowd" and hasn't the penchant for Butlerian invective which at times pained some of Philadelphia's good citizens. He is a Methodist, and for several years has acted as superintendent of one of the leading West Philadelphia Sunday schools.

The irony of it all is that Butler "made the man who is robbing him of his halo. When he came to Philadelphia, the first thing the general did was to look around for a man who could "teach him the ropes" in Philadelphia. He realized from the outset that he was going to meet plenty of opposition. The man who was to be chief of the fire department, had never entertained any police ambitions, and was content to remain as far as possible from political entanglements. Butler demanded him, however, and made his demand so strong that Elliott finally consented to take the job.

Through all of Butler's spectacular efforts to clean up the city, Elliott was at his elbow, counselor, suggesting, and executing his chief's orders with a willow. When Butler left the city, Elliott took command and carried on his chief's campaign so well that the good folk of Philadelphia hardly knew the Devil Dog chief was gone.

And before he decided after all to stay in Philadelphia and hang on to his job, Butler was chief among those who sang Elliott's praises as the man for the job he was preparing to lay down.

Developments of the last 24 hours, which included Butler's decision to resign from the Marine Corps and Mayor Kendrick's summary demand for his resignation with the avowed intention of putting Elliott in his place, have placed Elliott in a most embarrassing position. Tuesday night there were many persons around City Hall who predicted he would resign to rise over his chief's prostrate body. Today, while Elliott's wisecracks are being awaited, the general said he was still here.

But in either case, it was pretty generally agreed, Butler's halo had been sadly tarnished. If not destroyed altogether, For Mayor Kendrick has made a magnificent gesture at keeping Butlerism even though he no longer is willing to keep Butler. And while some of the church people think the mayor was pretty tough in the general, practically all of them think Elliott will make as good a crusader for purity as Butler himself.

There are even some who think he would be better. Meanwhile, the hotels and the "vice dens" against which Butler crusaded, are celebrating his dismissal. They think they see better days ahead.

For if Elliott proves too obstreperous, they believe he will be easier to bounce than the fighting Marine. And the politicians, whom Butler fought and denounced are just tickled to death.

JAMES THOMAS DEAD

James Thomas, for many years a resident of the Forks section, near this city, died at his home last night at 8 o'clock after an illness of six weeks, preceded by a period of ill health of about 11 years. He is survived by his wife, by one brother, Captain William Thomas, of Ocracoke, and by two sisters, Mrs. D. C. Perry and Mrs. Miles Davis, both of this city.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Burial will be in the family cemetery nearby. The services will be conducted by the Rev. R. W. Prevost, pastor of Corinth and Berea Baptist Churches, and the Rev. M. F. Boone, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

Everybody Made Merry At Christmas In Days Before The Civil War

Christmas on the plantations of the Old South was the biggest event of the whole year, according to Former Sheriff F. F. Cohoon, of this city, who remembers the glad day as a small boy on his father's plantation at Gum Neck, Tyrrell County. The elder Cohoon ran a store and cut shingles in addition to running a large plantation, and was a very busy man around Christmas time.

"Preparations for Christmas began at harvest time," Former Sheriff Cohoon declares in relating his recollections of the period. "I remember on one occasion hearing my father say to his slaves, 'Now, boys, it's time to gather corn. Get a move on and get the work done so we can have a good, long Christmas.'"

"At the fall and winter season father was a very busy man, managing a country store and having shingles made. Many of the shingles were shipped to the West Indies. He was noted for miles around as having the best managed and best controlled slaves in that part of the country. They really managed themselves, for they knew what had to be done, and they did it."

"The crops were harvested and the honey was gathered as the days wore along toward Christmas. In taking the honey, it was necessary to kill the bees, and this was done by digging a large hole in front of the hives, building a fire in the hole, and throwing sulphur on the fire. The fumes quickly killed the bees, and when they had dropped from the hives the honey was removed."

"Then came hog killing. In those days, Gum Neck was noted for its pork products. It was known as the greatest spot in North Carolina."

"Next came the corn shuckings. In those days when it was known that a corn shucking was to be held at a plantation the white world round about would go to hear the negroes sing. At these frolics the negroes always had one captain or leader to lead the singing. Many of those old songs linger with me yet. I know the tunes but have forgotten some of the words."

"Here are a few words of one of the songs I remember. 'My sweetheart in yonder town She wore a frock 'twas a new cut gown And the hollow of her foot cuts a hole in the ground.'"

"In those days stoves were seldom seen. I never saw one on the plantations. The first stove I ever saw was on my father's vessel. 'No wood cuttings were post in order. The measure of the best fireplace was taken and the wood cut the right length. After the wood was cut, enough lightwood knots were gathered to last through the winter."

"This done, Christmas began. No more work at father's plantation till after the fifth of January. Generally the work was all done by December 10 and from then till December 25 was hunting season. Everybody and everything was happy except the coon and the possum. No peace for them. Such fun this generation knows nothing about. Oh dem possum and 'aters. Nobody could cook them so well as Black Mammy. Possum 'aters and West Indies rum was served at the corn shuckings."

"Old Uncle Hark having a wife at my uncle Allen's, who lived near my father, asked my father to buy him so that he could be near his wife. This my father did. When Christmas came around old Uncle Hark, as we called him, introduced the customs of other plantations to me as on Christmas morning to put on a big log in the back of the fireplace and when this was burned up Christmas was over. Uncle Hark got a big gum log and put it in the lead ditch to soak in water so that it would not burn up too soon and Christmas would last longer. The boys told father about it and he went to the old man's house and found he had so little fire he was about to freeze. He told him to make a big fire and that his Christmas should last as long as the boys'."

"In those days we celebrated two Christmases, December 25, which was called New Christmas, and January 5, which was known as Old Christmas. Uncle Hark said that Old Christmas was shooft Christmas. I asked him how he knew. He said 'kase, Christmas eve night at 12 o'clock all the houses and cattle knelt down and prayed.'"

"I was a lad 10 years old and had to have proof of this, so I sat up with Uncle Hark and the rest

Young Bookkeeper Here Takes Job In Far Peru

It is a far call for Elizabeth City to Peru, on the west coast of South America, but a bookkeeper of some 200 miles, on the cross seas, is in the process of leaving for the last time here, for the last two years, Mr. Martin will call for calling, Peru, on January 21, aboard one of the Grace Line steamers. Callao is known to be about every schoolboy as one of the ports of call of the Pacific Ocean. On a very regular basis around two continents at the opening of the Spanish-American War. The bookkeeper's speedy voyage was interrupted in a way that has been immortalized by many a schoolboy.

Mr. Martin has accepted a position as accountant for the Cerro de Pasco Copper Corporation, operating extensive mining properties in Peru, and has signed a contract to stay three years in that country, which is on the opposite side of the equator from our. He is 28 years old, and is a native of Maryland.

CHRISTMAS PAYROLL STOLEN BY BANDIT

Pittsburgh, Dec. 24.—The Christmas payroll of the Pittsburg Terminal Coal Company, \$47,500, was taken from the payroll by six armed men at Mollensburg, a mining settlement, near Pittsburgh, early today. The robbers made their escape in an automobile.

of the colored folks on January 1 to wait and see the animals pray. But, they didn't pray. Uncle Hark and Black Mammy both said that I moved around so much I disturbed the animals and that was the reason.

"Dancing before the War. In those days there was one of the holiday features. It was the square dance and the break down, as they called it. Those hoopskirts, how they fly. One instance Uncle Hark and me."

"Old Man Ab Hill, a mulatto Indian, living on my father's plantation, was the neighborhood fiddler. After hearing him play, Old Dan Tucker at my father's store one night I set up a howl when he started to leave for a dance just across the road from my father's home. Ab insisted that I go, and father finally yielded, saying that I would be brought home asleep. If I did, I surely got waked up when the dancing began. I was seated beside the fiddler on a little stool, and when the couple were exiting, the fiddler and Miss Jane Patrick's hoopskirts swung over my head and snatched me down and landed me in the middle of the ballroom floor. Such a yell I did make."

"I guess one reason for my ardent love for dancing and music was that we never had it at our house. My parents were Baptists, and Baptists in those days looked upon dancing as a terrible sin and upon fiddle as an invention of the devil."

"Another sport in the holiday season was turkey shooting. The flint and steel gun was used. We shot at a mark and the one making the best shot got the turkey. Each one shooting paid a fixed sum and these fees paid for the turkey."

Santa Democratic. "The stockings of the white and the colored children were hung around the fireplace, and old Santa had no favorites. He made his visits in those days on the morning of December 25, new Christmas, and on January 5, old Christmas."

Just before the Civil War broke out my father moved to Preakness and that dreadful period which followed—I wish I could blot from my memory, not only the war time, but the days of Reconstruction which lasted till the early seventies. I hope they will never return to coming generations."

"It is said that old people live in the past, that is, they think and meditate on days of long ago. This part fits my case. The older I get the more my thoughts dwell on the days of my earliest recollections."

"While the children were so happy on Christmas morning the older people had to be remembered, so early in the morning the colored folks surrounded the 'great house,' as they called it, and when father poked his head out they all bellowed 'Christmas gift.' The first thing handed out was eggnog and West Indies rum. Then other gifts followed."

NO MORE WILL ARMY OFFICER CLEAN UP TOWN

At Least No More Will President Coolidge Grant One Leave of Absence for Such Purpose WENT FAR ENOUGH

And Much As President Would Have Liked to Please Senator Pepper He Had to be Firm

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1925, by The Advance) Washington, Dec. 24.—"I've again dined President Coolidge's stay at the White House will a high ranking officer of the Army, the Navy, or the Marine Corps be granted leave of absence to clean up a town or city? The president has been decidedly concerned over the problem of urban misbehavior which has arisen in Philadelphia as a result of the two year leave of absence granted to General Smedley D. Butler, of the "Fighting Marine."

General Butler has not only cleaned up the Philadelphia "machine" in Philadelphia, but from time to time in the past it has been indicated that if "sufficient" public safety, the army general might make a statewide cleanup of the matter by running for the United States Senate.

It is so happens that the Senator whom General Butler would oppose next year, if he opposes anybody, is George Wharton Pepper, one of the President's intimate, or non-intimate, political friends. Senator Pepper tried recently to get the President to extend General Butler's leave so that he might finish another year as Philadelphia's stormy chief of police, but much as he wanted to please the President, Mr. Coolidge felt the Butler episode had gone too far and that the general should either resign or return to his command. Of course, if General Butler had been granted another year leave, and his "enemies" in the City of Brotherly Love had not felt themselves strong enough to "throw him out" he would not have been in a position to be a Senate candidate and that would have pleased Senator Pepper more than ever.

General Butler has threatened to "change the fur fly" in Philadelphia. He has been caught up in the political whirlwind which always whips around the Philadelphia city hall where Father Penn stands with above the municipal office which once was characterized as "ignorant and contented." It is assumed General Butler feels he knows enough thoroughly to embarrass the Republican machine if he is not treated right. General Butler comes from a political family and as a fighting officer, and undoubtedly he has been in the midst of the city hall storm, the urge to enter politics has laid a hard hold upon him.

So far as his superiors and "buddies" of the Marine Corps know, however, General Butler has not indicated to them that he will curtail his political career in the near future.

An ex-commander in chief of the Army and the Navy and the Marine Corps President Coolidge does not relish the spectacle of a former threatening dire things to the Republic, to an individual commander-in-chief of a city, which is essentially a Republican city. The President found himself today, however, with both General Butler and Colonel William Mitchell on his shoulders. Mr. Coolidge realized he cannot prevent officers of the Army from accepting in the Mitchell fashion, from their own ranks, a municipal postmaster and example, but he can prevent officers, while still holding their commissions, from going into municipal or state service. Events of the past forty-eight hours in Philadelphia have shown that the politicians of that city would force General Butler on while they regarded him as an active officer. Once he had announced his resignation they leaped upon him with high nailed boots.

The President's own chief military aid, Colonel Clarence O. Sherrill is about to become the first city manager of a Christian city, but his case is totally different from that of General Butler in that he resigned his commission before finally accepting the offer. Although declining to lose so respectable an officer from the engineer corps, President Coolidge accepted the Sherrill resignation and bid him good-bye in his important new undertaking.

Brigadier General Dean Williams, of the Marine Corps, tendered the position of public safety director in Cincinnati, declined the offer because it would have entailed the severance of his service with the Marine.

As already stated there are to be no more leaves of absence granted in such cases.

JAPANESE DIET TO CONVENE TOMORROW

Tokio, Dec. 24.—The Japanese diet convenes tomorrow and will be formally opened by the prince regent on Saturday.

Christmas Eve, Dawning Bright and Clear, Gives Promise of Glad Morrow

GREAT CEREMONY IN CLOSING HOLY DOOR

Rome, Dec. 24.—Pope Pius XI, pontifically dressed in pontifical robes of rich medieval design and surrounded by ecclesiastical dignitaries, today performed the ceremony of the closing of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter, mammoth mother church of Catholicism.

The ceremony brought to a close the year of penitence. The Holy Door had remained open since one year ago today. Since then more than 25,000,000 pilgrims from every corner of the world has crossed the sill and kissed the door.

IN TIEN-TSIN AFTER BLOODY BATTLES

Peking, Dec. 24.—Marshal Tshu Shiao's National Army troops entered Tientsin this morning after several days' fighting in which thousands were killed or wounded. Troops of General Li Chen Lin, civil governor of Chihli and Peking's enemy, are fleeing in disorder.

SUTHERLAND ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

Washington, Dec. 24.—Howard Sutherland, former Senator from West Virginia, was appointed today to be Alien Property Custodian.

ARMISTICE SIGNED WITH TRIBESMEN

Calao, Dec. 24.—An armistice is reported signed between the Dromo tribesmen and the new French high commissioner in Syria, Henri D. Jouvenel.

HAS TAKEN REFUGE WITH THE JAPANESE

Shanghai, Dec. 24.—General Li Ching Ling, defeated by Marshal Yu Hsiang at Tientsin, is reported to have taken refuge in the Japanese concession accompanied by his staff.

REPORT CONDITION AND AREA OF WINTER WHEAT

Washington, Dec. 24.—The area of winter wheat sown this fall is 39,540,000 acres, which is one per cent less than the revised estimate of 39,956,000 sown last fall, the Department of Agriculture today announced. The area sown this fall and the condition of the crop on December 1 included North Carolina with 437 acres and condition 89 per cent.

Badgers' Ace



Victor Chapman, University of Wisconsin's star barrier, who won the recent Western Conference cross country race at Ann Arbor, Mich. He is one of the greatest runners the Badgers have ever had and bids fair to develop into a second Surmi. Chapman has records of 4:24 for the mile and 9:46 for the two-mile and is in his sophomore year at Wisconsin.

Half Hour Program of Christmas Carols to be Given at Elks' Home Tonight, Beginning at Nine

Two Hundred or More Will Greet Santa at Elks' Club Tomorrow; Assembling Places Designated

Dawning bright and clear today, Christmas Eve gives promise that the weather man would do his bit to make the morrow enjoyable. By 8 o'clock in the morning, Christmas shoppers were beginning to throng the downtown stores, indicating that long before nightfall the usual Christmas Eve rush would be up to its usual proportions.

Tonight at 9 o'clock, singers from the churches of the city will assemble in a great massed choir at the Christmas tree at the Elks' Home, to sing eight Christmas carols which long have held hallowed place in the memories of people everywhere. The program will continue for half an hour, and later the choir of several of the churches will sing various points in the city, in glad welcome of Christmas morn.

Tomorrow morning the Elks will hold their annual Christmas entertainment for children who might otherwise have failed to get a place on Santa Claus' itinerary. Preparations have been made to provide gifts for about 200 youngsters whose names were reported to the Rev. G. F. Hill, chaplain of the club, and the Rev. A. H. Outlaw, County Welfare Officer.

The Elks will assemble at the club with their automobiles tomorrow morning on the stroke of 8, and will drive to various designated points in the city, where they will pick up their little guests and carry them to the club. A tall, beautifully decorated Christmas tree will await the youngsters there. Gifts, fruits, candies and the like will be distributed in generous handfuls, and afterwards the Elks will carry the children back to their homes.

The young guests will assemble at the bridge on Southern avenue, at the Community House, on Fleetwood street, and at the electric light plant on Pennsylvania avenue. Many scattered ones will be picked up at their homes. Members of the Elks' committee on the event stated today that every child in the city had been notified, and all appeared keenly anticipant of the event. Other children from rural districts will attend also, including some living as far away as Weaverville. A special automobile will go after these.

The celebration will begin about 9:30 o'clock, according to present plans, and will close toward 11 o'clock. By noon, all the children will be back at their homes, ready for Christmas dinner.

The annual Christmas dance will be given at the Shrine Hall tomorrow night, with music by an out of town orchestra. With hundreds at home from schools and colleges, the usual large attendance is anticipated. It will be given by the Elizabeth City German Club.

Everything is in readiness for a cheery, merry Christmas. Horns blowing and cowbells jangling today reminded everybody that the glad holiday was at hand, and everywhere folks were making their last minute preparations to observe it joyfully.

A special Christmas service will be held by the Men's Christian Federation at the First Baptist Church tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. There will be short talks by a number of speakers, one of whom will be the Rev. E. S. Love, new pastor of the First Methodist Church. A cordial invitation to attend has been issued to the general public.

PINED FOR SPANKING

Charged with spanking a small boy in very efficient fashion, J. H. Bunch, elderly white man, was fined \$10 and costs in recorder's court this morning. The boy was a son of Will Stroud. The defendant claimed the child "pestered" him.

COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 24.—Cotton futures opened today at the following levels: Jan. 18.44, March 18.59, May 18.68, July 18.35, Oct. 17.55.