

THE NEWS-RECORD
The paper that tells what the people in the country as well as those in town are doing.

THE NEWS-RECORD

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DROUGHT IS NATIONAL PROBLEM

With creeks and rivers dried up, pasture lands burned to a crisp, countless sheep and cattle thrown upon the market at any price because of lack of feed, all crops except winter wheat suffering anywhere from 10 per cent to total ruin in the worst drought in the nation's records—which go back 50 years—cries of distress reached the capital and President Hoover and Secretary of Agriculture Hyde considered together what might be done in the way of national relief.

"The maximum intensity," said the President, "seems to lie in a belt roughly following the Potomac, the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers. He promised that 'no stone would be left unturned,' in giving assistance to local authorities. He mentioned low freight rates for the movement of feed, and possibly of animals, and extension of credit facilities to the farmers in the regions hardest hit. Chairman Legge of the Farm Board called on business men to help farmers.

A survey by the Agricultural Department showed the New England states and South-eastern states in a pretty fair position, while average feed crops were expected in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska, and three-fourths of an average crop were seen for Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota. But Kentucky's crops appeared practically ruined, while the rice crops in Louisiana were abandoned. Crop damage in Missouri was estimated at more than \$100,000,000; in Ohio at \$200,000,000; the cotton crop in Texas was estimated 1,000,000 bales short, while the shortage of the corn crop in the Mississippi Valley was placed from 600,000,000 to 800,000,000 bushels. For once the price of corn rose above that of wheat; the latter was used in some places as feed for cattle, while unripe wheat was cut for hay.

Millions of fish throughout the country perished through the drying up of the streams. The Bureau of Fisheries had to move some hatcheries to cooler places. Many fish of the coastal rivers suffered from the sea water which made its way inland for record distances during the time of low water.

—The Pathfinder.

The corn and bean crop in Bladen County is looking fine, according to County Agent J. R. Powell. He also reports that cotton and tobacco are looking good and his only hope is for good prices.

HART GETS VERDICT OF 2ND DEGREE

Judge Oglesby Sentences Him To Not Less Than 25 Years Nor More Than 30 Years In State Prison

The jury in the case of State vs. Roosevelt Hart, Negro, charged with the murder of B. K. Bryant June 6, 1930, finally returned a verdict of second degree murder and Judge Oglesby sentenced him to from 25 to 30 years in State prison. The prisoner was immediately rushed to the 13th floor of the Asheville jail until taken to Raleigh. A false report was spread around that an effort to lynch him would be made. However, there were quite a number of people who were more or less familiar with the case, who thought that he should have been convicted of first degree murder. However, so far as we have been able to learn, not many who heard all the evidence had that opinion.

TYPHOID INOCULATION TO START

County Commissioners have today closed contract with Dr. W. A. Sams, to give Typhoid Inoculation, at all the schools of the County. Said, Campaign will protect your children about the time the doctor will be in your vicinity. Friday's issue of this paper will have a full schedule of the starting week. Don't neglect this matter. It is of vital importance.

METHODIST REVIVAL CLOSES

The revival which began last Monday evening at the Methodist church in Marshall came to a close Sunday evening. The pastor, Rev. S. C. Weatherly, announced that due to a lack of interest, he thought it better to close the meeting. This was not due to a lack of good preaching. Rev. Mr. Kincheloe, who was doing the preaching, was delivering some of the finest sermons ever delivered in Marshall. And Mrs. Kincheloe was faithfully leading the singing. Perhaps the seeming lack of interest was due in a large manner to the court going on at the same time. So much interest was shown in the trial for first degree murder from Wednesday until Saturday night that everything almost was more or less neglected to attend court. We feel quite certain that if the meeting had continued, a greater audience would have attended, for really the people hardly realized what they were missing until the meeting closed.

J. H. NORTON HURT IN WRECK

Mr. J. H. Norton, of the Grapevine section of Madison County, was seriously hurt in a wreck Sunday night about 10:30 o'clock. Mr. Norton was driving a truck from the direction of Hot Springs towards Marshall, and as he rounded a curve near the filling station of Dr. J. H. Hutchins, beyond Walnut, the truck ran off the bank, resulting in serious injuries to Mr. Norton. He was taken to Aston Park Hospital, in Asheville where he is undergoing treatment.

A hail storm covering an area two miles wide and ten miles long caused great destruction of crops in Lincoln County early in August. Damage to crops ran from 50 to 100 per cent, reports county agent J. G. Morrison.

THE PUBLISHER'S COLUMN ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS

WHY ROOSEVELT HART WAS NOT ELECTROCUTED

The publisher of the News-Record has no sympathy for hitch-hikers who stun their benefactors and steal their cars. No punishment is too bad for a "bum" who will ask for a ride and murders the driver of the car who accommodates him. In our opinion an attempt of this kind on the part of anybody, whether he succeeds in killing his benefactor or not, should be made a capital offense. We can conceive of no crime so inexcusable and so deserving of torture. And when we heard that B. K. Bryant had been beaten to death by such a person, our first impulse was that the murderer should be given a speedy trial and electrocuted—the sooner the better. At that time it was the opinion of those who heard about it, that the murderer had lain in wait, had asked for a ride, and when Mr. Bryant opened the car to accommodate him, he was clubbed to death, and the car taken from him. If such had been the case, and lynch law had ever been excusable, it would have been excusable at this time. But the wisdom of letting the law take its course is well illustrated in the case in question. People at a distance who heard or read only a part of the evidence, will be puzzled to know how a jury could have returned a verdict of less than first degree murder. Certainly there was much circumstantial evidence against the defendant. He was arrested with the dead man's car and wearing the dead man's hat, and told two stories as to who murdered Bryant. Moreover, he was seen at a filling station alone in the dead man's been and was going. But when the facts were brought out in the trial, all the facts that could be obtained, and the defendant's story heard, a doubt arises as to who the real murderer was. A Negro boy, only between 16 and 17 years of age, was either not guilty of the crime or had sense enough to fabricate a story which was at least possible and corroborated in part by one of the State's witnesses. According to the evidence of Mr. Black, who was with Bryant the night before and heard a conversation between Bryant and the Negro, Bryant had refused to take the Negro toward Newport and Asheville and had turned back to Greenville, when Bryant and Black separated. The fact that Bryant was found on his way to Asheville is evidence that he changed his mind, went back and took the Negro with him. The Negro's story and Black's story coincide thus far. The Negro's story was to the effect that another white man was with them and that after they passed through Marshall the white man struck Bryant with his pistol while the Negro was driving, and that the white man later drew his gun on the Negro and forced him not to run away and to hold Bryant while the white man clubbed him to death. According to the Negro, the unknown white man, who had black hair and black moustache, with the Negro, drove on toward Asheville, and as they neared the filling station the white man gave the Negro a dollar with which to buy gas and oil, while he (the white man) walked on up the road in the dark and later boarded the car, after it had been serviced at the filling station. When they were nearing Asheville the white man left the car in the possession of the Negro, threatening to kill him if he ever told that a white man murdered Bryant. Having read of so many heinous crimes being perpetrated on the traveling public, and knowing that there are white men who are mean enough to commit such a crime, and try to shift the responsibility onto some ignorant Negro boy, we can see the possibility that the Negro's story could have been true. At any rate the evidence was such as at least to create a doubt in the mind of the writer as to electrocuting this Negro youth without better evidence that he had committed the crime. And we were relieved when the jury returned a verdict which coincided with our opinion of the matter. The sentence he received from the Judge will protect society from a repetition of such a crime by this Negro, if he were the one, and it will make it possible for future developments to vindicate the jury in its decision; whereas if the defendant were electrocuted, no matter what should develop in the future, it would be too late. Having heard all the evidence and the argument of the attorneys on each side, we are of the opinion that the verdict was correct. Of course, we are aware that too much mercy on the part of the courts has a tendency to encourage the mob spir-

MISS LILES SUCCEEDS MISS CASEY

Miss Meta Liles, of Tarboro, came the last of the week to succeed Miss Clemmie Casey, head of the Teacher Training Department of Marshall. Miss Casey had resigned to accept a position at Murphy.

Miss Liles comes highly recommended, having taught in the first Teacher Training School established in the State of North Carolina. For the last six years Miss Casey has had charge of the Teachers Training School in Moore County. The following resolutions were passed by the Moore County Board of Education, Carthage, N. C., at its meeting of June 2nd, 1930:

WHEREAS, Miss Meta Liles has rendered faithful service to Moore County during the past seven years as Director of the Teacher Training Department, and whereas, she gave much of her spare time to additional work in the various communities of the county, leaving a lasting impression for educational and social betterment, now therefore, be it resolved:

1st.—That the Moore County Board of Education extend its thanks to Miss Liles for this valuable service, and
2nd.—That a copy of these resolutions be given Miss Liles and a copy spread on the minutes.
Miss Liles spent the summer at Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C. Miss Liles is temporarily Training at the home of Mr. Blankenship.

NORTH CAROLINA STANDS EIGHTH IN EDUCATION

Raleigh, Aug. 30.—North Carolina stands eighth among the 16 southern states in public education, it is learned from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This ranking of the states is based on five educational items generally considered indicative of a good school system. These items are: (1) per cent of enrollment in average daily attendance, (2) average length of school term, (3) average annual salaries of teachers, supervisors and principals, (4) per cent of total enrollment in the high school grades, and (5) average value of school property per pupil enrolled.

According to the statement issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State of Missouri ranked first among the 16 southern states on the basis of these five items, Maryland is second, Louisiana and North Carolina. The states ranking below North Carolina on the basis of a composite score on these items are: Oklahoma, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi.

The North Carolina rank was obtained by the following scores on the respective items: per cent of enrollment in attendance, 75.5; average length of school term, 149.4 days; average annual salaries of teachers, supervisors and principals, \$837; per cent of total enrollment in high school, 12.1; and average value of school property per pupil enrolled, \$119. This state is below the national average on each of these items, and spends one-half as much per pupil as does the Nation as a whole for the current operations of schools.

Catawba County had the largest delegation of 4-H club boys and girls attending the recent short course at State College. Fifty-one boys and 23 girls were present.

An outbreak of army worms in the lower end of Currituck County has caused farmers considerable damage.

Flo—I suppose this talk about a college man's life being all wine, women and song is exaggerated.

Joe—It certainly is; you very seldom hear singing in the dormitories.

—The Pathfinder.

HAIL STORM DESTROYS CROP

A NUMBER OF FARMERS IN NO. 5 TOWNSHIP LOSE HEAVILY

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Chandler and child, of California Creek, were in Marshall Tuesday. Nosing around for news, we learned from Mr. Chandler that a terrific hail storm struck his section of the County about three weeks ago, and more or less damaged the crops of tobacco and other crops in that section. The storm covered a strip about a mile and a half wide, running for quite a distance through the township, and did some damage also in No. 4 Township. Some of the crops were almost completely destroyed, while some were hardly damaged at all. Only a few of the farmers were carrying hail insurance. Among those whose crops were damaged were: Messrs. J. P. Ball, Jno. Chandler, Sim Chandler, J. S. Chandler, Tom Buckner, Oscar Swann, Herschel Buckner, Jim Cody, Cornelius Grindstaff, H. G. Wallin, Burgin Metcalf, H. T. Thomas and Prof. W. C. Buckner.

NEXT FRIDAY AT COURT HOUSE

MISS THOMAS TO ADDRESS WOMEN AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A. M.

As announced last Friday, Miss Mary E. Thomas, State Nutritionist Specialist, will give the third leaders school at the Court House Friday, September 5, at 10:00 o'clock A. M. Her subject will be "School Lunches." She will visit Beech Glen Thursday morning, and the Pioneer Woman's Club Thursday afternoon.

it, but it is better to err on the side of mercy than for the State to take the life of a person not guilty. Certainly someone should suffer and pay the penalty for murdering Bryant, but the State should be very sure it has the right person before he is marched into the death row. The dignified manner in which this Negro was protected from mob violence and given every benefit of the law, deserves the commendation of our thoughtful citizens.