

THE DAILY JOURNAL

VOL. LXII.—No. 75

The Weather FAIR

NEW BERN, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, 1913

FIV. CENTS PER COPY

REPORT ON THE W. & L. DEPT.

Mr. Editor: Kindly publish the following report on the Water and Light Department:

CHAPTER VI.

Light And Water Department Accounts.

"Before dealing with each department specifically, we call attention in a general way to the books and records governing the income.

"The collector, Mr. J. C. Thomas, Jr., seems to have entire charge of the billing and collection. Mr. F. T. Patterson, City Clerk, entered the collections from the stubs of the Collector's receipts into separate Cash Books—one for Light Collections and one for water collections, and in turn posted such credits to the Consumer's Accounts in a ledger provided—either Light or Water, as the case might be.

"Inasmuch as Mr. Thomas did not furnish Mr. Patterson with a copy of the bill for service—in fact, no record was made of such bills sent out—Mr. Patterson had no way of knowing, in a large number of cases without consulting the collector, what the particular payments covered, the information on the stubs being often indefinite or misleading—in other words, instead of the charge for services being posted to a Ledger Account and governing the amount paid, the amount paid went to the Ledger first and from it to debit or charge entry was set up and if no collection was made, very frequently no charge appeared, though the consumer was indebted to the city for service and in the case of the old ledger used up to July, 1912, no charge in any instance was made against the consumer.

"The result of such procedure was a set of accounts in a deplorable and chaotic condition which Mr. Thomas could not satisfactorily explain and finally refused to assist in straightening out. He also stated that he had nothing to do with the ledgers and did not know the condition they were in, but this statement is not borne out by information furnished us that the attention of Mr. McCarthy, ex-Mayor, as well as Mr. Thomas, was directed to it by the Auditing Committee and in addition to this, the manner in which the accounts were collected from parties who had not paid for several months, necessitated reference by the Collector to the Ledgers.

"The same condition as we found during the period under audit existed prior to April 1st, 1911, and we fail to understand why mention was not made in the report of Mr. Leslie Abbott, as the bound ledger in use at that time was more of a memorandum book than a ledger, nor was this condition mentioned in the report of May 1st, 1913, rendered by Mr. T. B. Kehoe. Disregarding these special audits, Chapter 22, Section 5, of the City Ordinances is very definite in specifying the duties of the collector:

Section 5.

"The Board shall annually elect a collector for the water, sewerage and electric light plants for one year. He shall give a good and sufficient bond in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars which shall be approved by the Board of Aldermen. Said bond to be payable to the city of New Bern and conditioned for the due collection payment and settlement of all money due to the City of New Bern by the patrons of the water, sewerage and light plants. He shall settle weekly with the Treasurer. He shall render a Statement to the Board of Aldermen at the regular meeting each month, showing amount collected and amount due and unpaid. He shall furnish the Board of Aldermen a complete list in detail of every user of water, sewer and lights and when a name is added, report the same to the Board. The Board of Aldermen may at any time, upon notice in meeting after giving twenty days' notice, require the collector to give additional sureties when required, the Board may then declare the office vacant and proceed to elect his successor. All accounts due the water, sewer and light plants shall be placed in his hands for collection and if said collector shall fail to collect same in a reasonable time and pay over to the Treasurer all sums due, then his failure to do so shall be sufficient cause for his removal and the Board may at once proceed to reappoint him and elect his successor.

"It was the duty of the Mayor

Jas. Wickersham



Mr. Wickersham, delegate in Congress from Alaska, complains bitterly of the way the government has treated that territory.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET TONIGHT.

There will be an important meeting of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Carolina Fair Association Company at the office of the Secretary tonight at 8 o'clock. Every member is urged to be present as matters of importance are to be transacted.

PLATES FOR ENGRAVED CARDS AT THE JOURNAL OFFICE.

The stock of plates for engraved cards which were in the possession of George N. Ennett, has been turned over to the E. J. Land Printing Company and those desiring a new supply of cards are requested to leave their order at the Journal office.

Allen Ives arrived in the city yesterday from Bedford City, Va., where he is a student at The Randolph Macon Preparatory School, to spend Christmas with his parents.

and Board of Aldermen to know why the above was not being complied with and why the collector was not giving full attention to the duties of his office.

"The city paid for a duplicate form of receipt—one copy to be given to the consumer and an exact copy to remain in the book for proper entry, yet, we find it was an almost universal practice for the collector to write up his collections on the stubs only, discarding the use of the original altogether.

"In order to arrive at as true a condition of the accounts as possible, it was necessary to construct entirely new accounts from the original meter readings and flat rate memorandums. In numbers of cases, we found that special reduced rates had been granted consumers to the detriment of other consumers who used as much or more current and that no proper authority was found to justify such action.

"We used the prevailing rates or basis of consumption from April 1st, 1911, to the time the inventory was taken by Mr. Geo. D. Dail was accepted by the Board of Aldermen and by them ordered to be placed in the Ledgers.

"The statements were made in duplicate and one copy mailed to each consumer, concerned, with the requests that they check up the account and return to us certifying as to its correctness. The attitude of the consumers was very disappointing to us; while some took the trouble to look up their receipts and bills, the majority, paid no attention to the request, yet in some instances, we know there were errors in the accounts.

"We found accounts where the Dail inventory had been entered in which certain light or water service had been noted. Out, we understand at Mr. Thomas's instructions, and no charge made, and yet investigation at our request found the service being used and that it had been used for the entire term, and we consequently, in making the new accounts, charged for all such items.

"Taking the Ledgers as we found them, the accounts to the average person would appear to have been properly kept and promptly collected, yet—this was far from the actual condition of which the accounts themselves are the best evidence. In many cases, parties had moved and the account or address had not been changed in

Concluded on page 4.

THIRTY-EIGHT ARE KILLED IN MINE

Coal Dust Responsible—Two Rescued Out Of The Jaws Of Death.

MANY OF BODIES MANGLED

Several Days Before All Bodies Can Be Recovered.

New castle, Colo., Dec. 17.—Thirty-eight men were killed in the Vulcan mine of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company today by an explosion of coal dust. Two miners were rescued after the underground workings had caught fire. All the victims were married, and all but six or eight were Americans.

Men in charge of the rescue work asserted tonight that it probably would be a day or two before the bodies could be recovered. Before sundown the mine had been cleared of gas and a thorough exploration of the wrecked workings was made.

Many of the bodies were mangled and burned.

Father J. P. Corrigan, of Glenwood, Springs, near here, hurried to New-castle at the first news of the explosion. The priest rushed into the smoking pit among the first of the rescuers in search of dying to whom he might administer the last rites of the church. The Vulcan mine was only about a year old and was equipped with modern safety devices. It is believed the explosion was caused by an accumulation of dust in the west portion of the mine where work practically had been abandoned. Most of the dead were found in the east workings to which the explosion was communicated.

This fall the employees of the mine were called out on strike by the United Mine Workers of America, but some of them had gone back to work. The other victims of today's disaster were strike breakers.

NO RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW BERN POSTMASTER

SENATOR SIMMONS HAS, SO FAR, MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT.

The prediction that Senator F. M. Simmons would yesterday make recommendation of a postmaster for the New Bern postoffice did not materialize and it is probable that the fortunate aspirant will not be named until tomorrow.

While no one can say definitely when Senator Simmons will make this recommendation, there is every reason to believe that it will be made this week. He stated last week to a newspaper correspondent at Washington that the office would be filled this week and it is believed that such will be the case.

The suspense of waiting for the words which will prove fatal to the aspirations of three of the four candidates is telling on their friends and the public in general. Not only are the citizens of New Bern greatly interested but all over this section the people are taking an interest in the affair. The Journal last night, had twenty or more telephone calls from citizens of other towns, asking if the appointment had been made and an even larger number of requests from local citizens.

Interest in the matter continues at fever heat and the action of Senator Simmons is awaited with much anticipation.

YOUNG DRUG CLERK HAS APPENDICITIS.

John Crowell, one of the popular young clerks in Bradham's Pollock street drug store, has been stricken with an attack of appendicitis and is now undergoing treatment at Stewart's sanatorium. His condition is not considered critical.

THE CHRISTMAS SOUTHERN EVANGEL IS OUT.

The December number of the Southern Evangel, the official organ of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, is just from the presses of the E. J. Land Printing Company. This magazine, which is edited by Miss Louise Herndon, is one of the most interesting religious publications in the State and enjoys a large circulation.

Senator T.P. Gore



Senator Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma, has been sued for \$50,000 damages by Mrs. Minnie E. Bond, of Oklahoma City, who charges that the senator slandered her. The suit is the outcome of charges made last winter in Washington by Mrs. Bond.

Owing to circumstances Dr. Parrott cannot be present to night at the union service to be held in the Presbyterian Church, therefore there will be the usual prayer service in the following churches: Centenary, First Baptist and First Presbyterian.

POLICE WATCHING FOR NEW HANOVER QUARTETTE

TWO YOUNG LADIES AND TWO YOUNG MEN DISAPPEAR.

The New Bern authorities have been requested to be on the lookout for James Streeter and John E. Johnson, of Wilmington, and Miss Beulah Pettitt and Myrtle Corbett, of Middle sound, New Hanover county, who disappeared Sunday and have not since been seen by any of their friends.

Yesterday's Wilmington Star had the following to say in regard to the disappearance of the quartette:

"Before day yesterday morning the police at headquarters were asked to assist in a search for two young couples, who seem to have disappeared from Middle Sound during Sunday while services were being held at one of the churches there, the circumstances being such as to indicate that the young people have left for other parts to conclude romantic marriages, which may have been planned on the spur of the moment or may have been in contemplation for perhaps a longer period.

"The parties are Mr. James Streeter, about 17 years old, a son of Rev. Wm. E. Streeter, No. 1121 South Ninth street; Mr. John E. Johnson, of Wilmington, between 25 and 30 years old; Miss Beulah Pettitt, said to be 17 or 18 years of age, a daughter of Mr. John Pettitt, and Miss Myrtle Corbett, said to be younger and a daughter of Mr. Obdiah Corbett, both the young ladies residing on Middle Sound and being cousins.

"The circumstances were reported to the police by Rev. Mr. Streeter, father of one of the young men; Mr. Pettitt, father of one of the young ladies, and Mr. Luther Smith, of Middle Sound, who accompanied them to the city. Mr. Streeter had been accompanied to the sound by his son and had filled his regular appointment at the church for the morning service while the young people were left to their own devices. In the afternoon for Sunday school neither of the couples had put in an appearance, but thinking they had been detained perhaps at the home of some one of the community, no alarm was felt.

"But when they failed to appear for the night service and some one in the neighborhood heard that four young people had been seen hastening to the city in a buggy, it was at once suspected that the young folks had determined upon a romantic marriage, and very soon the 'older heads' were off in search of them. Upon returning to his home in the city, Mr. Streeter found that the horse and buggy that been returned and a note from his son stated his intention of marrying Miss Pettitt and gave an intimation that Mr. Johnson also had matrimonial intentions towards Miss Corbett, for which, however, young Streeter is said to have expressed some regret."

BIG LAND SALE AT VANCEBORO TODAY

VALUABLE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION.

One of the biggest land sales ever held in this section of North Carolina will take place today at Vanceboro when the old W. J. White property, which has been cut up into twenty-five business lots, fifty residence lots and five small farms will be sold at public auction by the famous Penny Brothers.

Vanceboro is one of the most progressive towns in this section. Among the other things that it has is a bank with deposits of fifty thousand dollars and a handsome new brick bank building is now in course of construction. Craven county's new Farm Life School is also located there, and there is much building in progress and being contemplated.

Arrangements have been made to feed a large number of persons who will, today, attend the sale. Sandwiches, soft drinks and fruit have been prepared and no one will be allowed to go hungry during the day. A cordial invitation is extended the public to attend.

PROMINENT GOLDSBORO CITIZEN PASSES AWAY

WIFE OF DECEASED FORMERLY LIVED IN THIS CITY.

Goldsboro, N. C., Dec. 17.—Mr. W. C. Munroe died at his home in this city yesterday morning at 1:30 o'clock, surrounded by his immediate family, who for days had been expecting the end. He had been in declining health for many years. His passing causes widespread sorrow, not only to this community, where his life for 30 years has been as an open book and an inspiration to Godliness and a model in professional ethics and industry, but to the State at large, for he was widely known and universally esteemed.

Mr. Munroe was the ranking member of the Goldsboro bar in point of years and ability as well, and his conferees rendered him filial respect that was as beautiful as it was real, and their sorrow at his death was given expression, when in open court Judge Bland presiding, Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson, who at one time was co-partner of Mr. Munroe in the practice of law, feelingly announced his death and moved the adjournment of court out of respect to his memory, until Wednesday morning, and that a committee of the local bar association be appointed to draft suitable resolutions in his honor. Judge Bland feelingly approved this course and the order was so enrolled upon the minute docket of the court.

Mr. Munroe is survived by his wife who was Miss Kate Street, of New Bern; two daughters, Miss Mary Scott Monroe and Mrs. W. H. Best, of this city, and one sister, Mrs. D. H. McCann, of Laurinburg, all of whom were at his bedside when the end came. Deceased was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian church of this city and had been one of its deacons for years.

The funeral was held from the home on East Center Street, South this morning at 11 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Peter McIntyre, of Faison, a personal friend of the deceased, and the interment was made in the family plot in Willow Dale cemetery.

MISS ROSA TOLSON IMPROVING

The many friends of Miss Rosa Tolson will be delighted to learn that she has sufficiently recovered from an attack of appendicitis to be removed from the hospital to her home.

LAST CHANCE TO BUY RED CROSS SEALS.

As a last chance to buy the Red Cross Christmas Seals, the management will place them on sale at the postoffice, Ed. Clark's, the Wood-Lane and Bradham Drug stores every day during Christmas week, and have committees of young ladies in charge of stamp tables. It is hoped that the sales will be large during the remainder of the days before Christmas, and we trust that every parcel and letter sent out will bear its Red Cross Christmas Seal message.

TWO OFFENDERS IN THE TOILS

Colored Fugitive From The Law Is Apprehended In Onslow County.

SYRIAN UNDER CHARGE

George Saad Is Accused Of Having Two Living Wives.

Some time ago Arthur Slade, colored, was placed under arrest on a charge of stealing a pair of shoes from another negro. Slade was placed under arrest and taken before Justice of the Peace H. C. Wood at Riverdale and was given a preliminary hearing. Probable cause was found and the defendant bound over to the next term of Craven county Superior Court.

The alleged offender could not give bond and a special officer started to bring him to New Bern and place him in jail. When about four miles from this city, Slade jumped from the buggy and made his escape. Sheriff R. B. Lane has been on the lookout of the fugitive ever since and last Monday located him at Camp Pender, about ten miles from Jacksonville. Sheriff Lane wired Sheriff Henderson, of Onslow county to arrest him and this was done and he was last night brought to New Bern and placed in the county jail where he will remain until the next term of Superior Court.

Sheriff Lane was also instrumental in causing the apprehension and arrest yesterday of another offender of the law. This is George Saad, a Syrian who formerly conducted a small store in this city. Saad is said to be a bigamist. It is claimed that he has a wife living in the Old Country and also one in America. Several days ago the brother of the woman across the pond, who claims to be the legal wife of the alleged offender, came over to this country and proceeded to tell all he knew of the affair. This resulted in complicating matters and Saad decided to depart for more peaceful climes.

When he left New Bern the Syrian told friends that he was going to Norfolk. Sheriff Lane, however, decided that this was a bluff and at once wired to the Sheriff at Elizabeth City to arrest him if he was at that place. Sure enough Sheriff Lane's surmise was correct and Saad was taken in custody at that place and brought back to New Bern.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday before Justice of the Peace S. R. Street the defendant gave bond in the sum of sixty dollars and was released from custody.

MACK AND HASTINGS

An All Star Company Presenting High Class Tabloid Musical Comedies

will appear at the Athens again today, matinee and night. This company is one of the best and most refined attractions ever booked by us. We know of no one not perfectly pleased who has seen and heard them. Turn out and hear them tonight, and see our excellent picture program, as follows.

"Fashion's Story." A beautiful love drama told by the Lubin players.

"Broncho Billy's Oath."

A stirring Western drama by the Essanay Co., featuring the world famous cowboy player G. M. Anderson.

"Cornwall, the English Riviera." One of the most beautiful scene pictures ever thrown upon a moving picture screen.

"The Comedian's Downfall." A very funny Edison comedy dealing with a militant suffragette.

Matinee daily at 3:45, 2 shows at night, 1st starts at 7:30, 2d about 9:15 o'clock.

When you want to see a good, big long show, consisting of a splendid musical comedy, three reels of the best association pictures shown in the State come to the Athens, a real theatre, "built for the business," with every modern comfort and convenience. You feel safe and at ease always.

In the first of a series of three games of basketball between the 10th and 9A grades of the city schools, the 9A grade won the first game yesterday by a score of 20 to 7.