

THE DAILY JOURNAL

VOL. LXII.—No. 102

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 26, 1914

FIVE CENTS PER COPY

NEW BERN OUT OF BLIZZARD'S ICY COLD GRASP

City Covered With Snow Yesterday Morning.

WIRES DOWN, TRAINS DELAYED
Storm Swept Over The Entire Country Doing Much Damage.

The blizzard which has been sweeping over the country this week, and which struck New Bern Wednesday evening is believed to be a thing of the past. Local citizens awoke yesterday morning and found that the snow which had fallen on the previous night had been covered with an icy sheet of water and the ground was almost as slick as a piece of glass.

During the early part of the day pedestrians found travelling about the streets dangerous and until shovels had been brought out and the snow and ice cleared away there were but few out. The worst damage done by the storm was the breaking of numerous telegraph wires and the delaying of all trains during the morning hours.

Later in the day the temperature rose and in the afternoon the greater portion of the snow and ice had been thawed. New Bern seems to have got the tail-end of the storm. Press dispatches from other points show that those places suffered much greater than did this city and at some points all traffic was tied up for hours.

Snow in Greenville, S. C.—Snow which began falling here at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon covered the ground to a depth of several inches.

Snow Covers Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 26.—Mississippi today was covered with a mantle of snow. It began falling at 4:30 this morning and lasted till noon, covering the ground throughout the state to a depth of 2 inches. By noon the temperature began to rise and at nightfall the snow had almost disappeared.

Nearly Three Inches in Oakla.
Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 26.—More than two and a half inches of snow fell here and the precipitation continued early today. All incoming trains were late.

Snow in Gulf Coast Towns.
New Orleans, Feb. 26.—Several gulf coast towns reported a light snowfall. At Morgan City the first flakes in 14 years were seen. Despite a temperature around freezing, the snow melted in this city as it fell. Upstate Louisiana and Mississippi towns reported two inches or more of snow. The forecast is for continued cold.

Snow in Charleston.
Charleston, S. C., Feb. 26.—Two inches of snow fell here. The snowstorm and rain storm and the streets are covered with a glass-like coating of ice. The snow fall was the heaviest in 15 years.

Tennessee Storm Bound.
Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 26.—Nashville and other cities and towns in middle Tennessee experienced a light snowstorm. Very cold weather preceded the snowfall.

Three Inches in Chattanooga.
Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 26.—Snow has fallen continuously in this vicinity throughout the day, and lies three inches deep in Chattanooga. On the mountains the snowfall was considerably heavier. Indications are that freezing temperature will be reaching during the night.

Six Inches in Macon.
Macon, Ga., Feb. 26.—The United States weather bureau stated that six inches of snow had fallen in Macon at 5 o'clock. It is still snowing and indications are that it will continue for another 12 hours. All records here have been broken. Mercer students and Wesleyan female college students engaged in a battle royal on the latter's campus.

LARGE CLOCK ON FEDERAL BUILDING FREEZES

Among the other things which froze up in New Bern yesterday morning was the clock on the Federal Building. The low temperature caused the mechanism of the clock to freeze.

ANOTHER DEATH HAS BROADENED MEXICAN CRISIS

Body Of Clemente Vergara Is Demanded Of Federals.

WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

Secretary Bryan Appears Before Foreign Relations Committee With Information.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Mexican situation, which in the last few days has centered chiefly on efforts to determine how and why the constitutionalists executed William S. Benton, a British subject, today was broadened when Consul Garrett, at Nueva Laredo, was instructed to inquire into the hanging by Mexican federals of Cleanre Vergara, an American citizen.

The consul was directed by the State Department to demand the body of the dead American from the officers of the Huerta government in the vicinity of Hidalgo, Mexico, where Vergara was killed. Earlier in the day Marion Fletcher, American consul at Chihuahua, had been instructed to insist that General Villa permit the delivery of the body of Benton to the widow for burial where she may wish.

These, with an explanation by Secretary Bryan to the senate foreign relations committee of all the State department's information in the Benton case, and Mexico generally, constituted the principal developments of the day.

General Villa's message of last night offering to permit the widow of Benton or relatives and an American official to see the body when exhumed, is taken by the American government to mean that a complete medical examination may be performed.

Must See The Body.

Secretary Bryan told the senators that the United States was insisting that two American representatives be permitted to see the body and that one of these be an army surgeon. He also has made inquiry as to exactly where the grave is located. General Villa late today had not replied to the last request of Secretary Bryan for the surrender of Benton's body, but it is understood Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, for the present will be satisfied if there is an opportunity for an autopsy to determine whether Benton was shot by a pistol bullet or by rifle bullets from a firing squad.

It is thought the British ambassador is anxious that evidence be obtained first, believing discussion of the disposition of the body can be taken up afterward. The same army surgeon who will be detailed by General Scott at Fort Bliss to act with the British consul, Charles A. S. Perceval, when he arrives at El Paso, will report to the American government on the condition of the Benton corpse.

The British ambassador early today had brief conferences with Secretary Bryan and later was kept informed of messages received by the State department.

That no change of policy in connection with treatment of the Mexican problem was discussed in the Senate conference with Secretary Bryan, became known afterwards. It is apparent, however, that while officials are not prejudicing the Benton affair and are awaiting facts, the danger to the safety of foreigners in northern Mexico and what is being construed as inability of a part of the constitutionalists, at least, to prevent international complications, is receiving deep consideration by high administration officials.

A. C. L. REDUCES ITS CAPITAL STOCK.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 26.—Filed in the office of the Secretary of State today was a certificate of reduction in the capital stock of the Atlantic Coast Line Company, of Bridgeport, from \$12,640,000 to \$8,200,000 and par value of each share from \$100 to \$50.

The reduction is in accordance with a vote taken at the annual stockholders meeting held at Bridgeport February 20.

U. S. Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue Till of Kingston was in the city yesterday conferring with Commissioner C. B. Hill.

piece to properly perform its duties and in consequence the instrument ceased to chime forth the passing hours.

There seems to be some doubt of the correctness of the latest report of the death of Menelik of Abyssinia, but if he is dead, he has been succeeded by his grandson, Si Jassu, whose portrait is here presented.



CAPT. BERRY ADMITS THAT HE IS TO BLAME

SAYS THAT HIS JUDGMENT WAS MUCH IN ERROR.

Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—Captain Osmyr Berry, of the steamship Nantucket, admitted on the witness stand today in his trial on charges of negligence in causing the collision with the steamer Monroe that if he had stopped his ship when he first heard the Monroe's whistle the disaster, which cost forty-one lives, might have been averted. I supposed he was stopped and that I could easily pass him, Captain Berry said.

Under cross-examination the captain further admitted that his judgment was in error when he guessed he could see a mile ahead in the fog. He said he did not see the loom of the Monroe's light until they were within an eighth or a quarter of a mile of the Nantucket.

Captain Berry contended in his testimony that the Monroe was out of her course. He said he maintained a speed of about 12 1/2 knots through the fog after he heard the Monroe's whistle up to within a minute of the collision.

TROUBLE AT GOLDSBORO.

Hot Water Tank Explodes With Serious Results.

Goldsboro, Feb. 26.—The hot water tank and pipes running into the kitchen range at the home of Capt. J. C. Collier, in this city, exploded about 9 o'clock this morning, severely scalding and bruising the cook, a negro woman, who had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. The tank and water pipes had frozen and the explosion came a short while after the fire had been made in the range, blowing the range into atoms, breaking out the window lights and destroying all the crockery in the kitchen, a quantity of which was highly treasured on account of having been in the family for more than half a century. Loss, about \$500.

WATER PATRONS MUST CLOSE FAUCETS AT NIGHT

SUPERINTENDENT HODGES WARNS AGAINST WASTE OF THE SUPPLY.

During Wednesday night there were probably three or four hundred water consumers in New Bern who, rather than cut off the water at the cut-off attached to their line for such purpose, allowed the faucets to remain open all during the night and the amount of water wasted in this manner caused the supply in the tank to become so low that there was but a few pounds pressure.

Fortunately a fire did not break out during the night. If such had occurred in a thickly settled district, it would have meant a loss of thousands of dollars for there would have been no water with which to fight the blaze.

The situation has become so serious that Superintendent H. H. Hodges yesterday had several thousand circulars distributed warning water consumers to cut off their water every night during the cold weather and warning them against allowing it to run. Unless the consumers heed this request, the water will, each night, be cut off from the mains. This is a matter which is of vital importance

CORONER'S JURY SAYS LYERLY WAS MURDERED

VICTIM WAS KIN TO WHOLE FAMILY WHO MET DEATH IN SIMILAR WAY.

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 26.—In the light of evidence submitted to a coroner's jury at Barber's Junction today, the most probable explanation of the charred body found in the ruins of H. T. Smithdeal's store last night seems to be that a robber, surprised by Manager Preston Lyerly in the act of rifling the safe, killed the merchant, upset a kerosene oil tank and set fire to it, firing the building, and fled with a small amount of money taken from the cash drawer.

Dr. Burns, who was first to discover the body, testified that blood in profusion had issued from wounds in the skull, one seemingly made by a pistol bullet and another by a blow from an axe.

Two elements indicate a possible motive for the killing other than robbery. So far as is known the merchant had no enemies, but it was brought out before the coroner's jury that a negro section hand whom he had prosecuted for false pretence, intimated that he would kill the white man when he had an opportunity.

Preston Lyerly, though not of the immediate family, was a relative of the five Lyerlys who were murdered in this community eight years ago their heads being chopped from their bodies on the same night. Three Gillespie negroes charged with the crime were taken from the jail at Salisbury hanged and riddled with bullets by a mob. While it is not known if Lyerly had any part in avenging his kinsmen, the lynching is recalled as furnishing a possible motive through which some friend of the Gillespies sought his death.

MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE IS CALLED

CHAIRMAN C. A. WEBB HAS MAILED NOTICES TO THE MEMBERS

Ashville, Feb. 26.—Chairman C. A. Webb of the Democratic Executive Committee of North Carolina has mailed letters to the members of the committee calling a meeting which will be held in the Senate chambers at Raleigh Tuesday night, March 10, at 8:30 o'clock.

The purpose of the meeting as outlined by Mr. Webb include the selection of the time and place for the State convention; the fixing of a common day on which all precinct meetings or primary elections will be held for the purpose of ascertaining the choice of the Democratic electors for the State congressional, judicial and State senatorial offices and for the election of delegates to the county conventions; the naming of a common date for the holding of a county convention in each county of the State for the purpose of declaring the result of the precinct meeting or primary election or to ascertain the choice of all electors in mass convention and for the appointment of delegates to the State, Congressional, Judicial and State Senatorial Conventions.

to every citizen of New Bern, and Superintendent Hodges' request should be given consideration.

ARAPAHOE SCENE OF MUCH ACTIVITY AT THIS TIME

MOVING SEEMS TO BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY AT PRESENT.

(Special to the Journal.)

Arapahoe, February 26.—There has been an unusual amount of moving from our place this winter. Notwithstanding there is some of us yet left.

H. B. Bennett, Charles Lane, U. C. Lane, John Filming have all moved to Grimesland, N. C.

Well, I guess, if I tell of any more our readers will begin to wonder who is left to hold the fort. But the most of our vacated places are filled by good people who have moved in, so you see we can battle along without the same strength.

* Notwithstanding the discouragement of last year's storm our people are putting on new effort in the preparation of another crop.

Our school work is moving on fine. Lem Willard, of Middle Tennessee is our principal, C. K. Dunn, our first assistant and Miss Ruth Reel second Miss McWilliams third. Mr. Willard seems to be the right man in the right place and all his assistants seem to be co-operating with him in accomplishing good work at Arapahoe.

All our churches at Arapahoe are supplied with new preachers this year. Mr. H. C. Quin of Wilmington, N. C., preaches for the Christian Church and Mr. Joyner from Ayden, N. C., for the Baptist and Mr. Moore for the Methodist. Old folks use to say that new brooms sweep clean, if this is true, Arapahoe ought to be swept and garnished this year.

THE HUNTING SEASON FAST NEARING CLOSE

NO SQUIRELS TO BE KILLED AFTER SATURDAY OF THIS WEEK

Next Sunday, March 1, brings to a close in Craven county the season in which local sportsmen, or all others as far as that part is concerned, can shoot squirrel, quail, wild turkeys and doves, and those who own guns and want to get one or more cracks at the little fleet footed animals and the wild turkeys and quail, have only today and tomorrow in which to gratify their desires.

While there has not been what might termed a scarcity of game in this section during the season which is fast coming to a close, it has in no ways been over abundant and hunters have been less fortunate than during previous seasons. This condition is accounted for by the fact that during the past few years in this section, which has become noted as a rendezvous for the sportsmen, has been so thoroughly canvassed by the men with guns and dogs that the greater part of the game has been thinned out and it will take some time for the supply to enlarge.

The local game warden warns all sportsmen to strictly observe the State game laws and avoid possible trouble.

TWO GOOD ACTS.

Vaudeville At The Athens Pleases Theatre's Patrons.

A really good show deserves praise and the two acts filling the bill at the Athens theatre during the last three days of this week are among the best seen here since the Athens joined the well known Keith vaudeville circuit.

The first number on the program is Miss Grace Pomeroy, singing comedienne. This young lady has a voice of exceptional sweetness and in addition to being personally attractive, her costumes are elaborate and the whole combined makes her act one of real worth and each selection rendered by her yesterday afternoon and last night brought forth frequent encores.

Keane and White, the trickologist and the pianist, fill the second number on the program. This act is refined in every sense of the word. Mr. Keane is a sleight of hand performer of no mean ability and Miss White is an accomplished pianist. Their act is really one of merit and has greatly pleased the Athens theatregoers.

L. G. Taylor of Clarks spent yesterday in the city returning home on the afternoon train.

BECKER DEMANDS OLD PLACE AND ALL BACK PAY

Expects To Go Free And Will Seek Reinstatement.

ASKS FOR NO SYMPATHY.

Says That He Is Innocent And Will Prove This To The Satisfaction Of All.

New York, Feb. 26.—Charles Becker, the ex-lieutenant of police, who was saved from the electric chair by the decision of the Court of Appeals granting him a new trial for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, will fight for reinstatement on the police force and to recover his back salary at his second trial.

At the time that Becker was suspended from the police force he was receiving a salary of \$2,250 a year. Therefore, the monetary sum which he will seek will be in the neighborhood of \$4,000.

Becker was removed from the death house at Sing Sing today to another cell, where he will remain until Friday. Then he will be brought back to the Tombs. He is considerably fleshier than when he entered the prison.

"I hope the public will bear with me until I prove I am innocent, more sinned against than sinning. I ask no sympathy and no quarter. Only justice."

Becker displayed exceptional bitterness when the name of Schepps was mentioned. He clenched his fist and his voice was hard.

"Schepps was a perjurer of the worst type," he exclaimed. "He never came to see me at my house. I don't know who put the words in his mouth. He never did any of the things he said."

"I could have walked the streets a free man if I had been willing to make a false confession, but I would not. I knew I was innocent and I made up my mind I would rather go to the block as a murderer than go free under a stain like that."

"That death house is terrible. Have you ever read Dante's Inferno? Yes, Well I read it while I was in there, and I tell you Dante knew nothing as bad as what I had been through in there."

District Attorney Whitman insisted that he could not possibly outline his future course until he had time to go over the full text of the decision of the Court of Appeals, by which Becker's conviction before Justice Goff was set aside.

SKIDDING AUTO STRIKES ANOTHER WHEEL BROKEN

ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON MIDDLE STREET NEAR BROAD

While attempting to turn into Middle street from Broad yesterday morning an automobile owned by the New Bern Garage Company and driven by Ben. Williams, skidded on the icy pavement and crashed into Dr. Walter Watson's machine which was standing in front of his office on Middle street.

When two automobiles collide or when one crashes into another there is always some damage done. Fortunately in this case the damage was confined to a demolished wheel on Dr. Watson's machine.

The car which had come out second best in the collision was taken to the New Bern Garage and the damage was repaired. Although the streets yesterday morning were coated with ice and all modes of traveling were dangerous, this was the only accident, so far as is known, to occur in New Bern.

DECISION EFFECTS NORFOLK SOUTHERN RATES

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—The Interstate Commerce Commission today handed down an important decision affecting the rate on mine-prop logs from North Carolina to Norfolk over the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

It held that the present rates on mine prop logs are unreasonable and the future rate shall be no higher than the Norfolk Southern charges for mill logs.