

The Markets. Shelby, spot cotton 20c Cotton Seed, bu. 70 1/2c

Rain Is Likely. Today's North Carolina Weather Report: Fair and not quite so cold tonight. Saturday increasing cloudiness with slowly rising temperature, probably followed by rain in west portion.

Defeat Measure. The administration measure to provide for a tax commission of three members to study problems of taxation and make recommendations to the state was defeated last night by the senate 16 to 15. The measure was sponsored by Governor Gardner.

Vanderburg To Make Plea Of Self Defense

Will Claim, Is Said, That Father Killed Four And Then Attacked Him.

Gaston, March 7.—A plea of self-defense for the killing of J. W. Vanderburg, father, will be made by Jacob Vanderburg, son, aged 16, when he goes on trial here April 29 in Gaston county superior court on charges of murdering his father, mother, two sister and brother in their home near here December 27, according to information obtained in official circles here. The giant youth will take the witness stand and testify that his father, aged 63 years, slew his wife, two daughters and young son and was slain when he attacked his older son, the prisoner, the report said. Inquiry failed to disclose what explanation the prisoner will endeavor to make for the fire which consumed the Vanderburg home and with it most of each of the five bodies.

Talks To Lawyer.

Vanderburg has held a number of long conferences lately with Marvin Ritch, of Charlotte, his chief counsel, who is declining to discuss the nature of the defense his client will make when he is placed on trial. County authorities here have obtained information from several sources, however, including one source within the county jail, which points strongly to a pleading by the Vanderburg boy that his father killed the four members of the family and was killed when he attempted to kill the son who is the only remaining member of the family. A prisoner by the name of Taylor, who was given his liberty a few days ago, was for some time one of Vanderburg's companions in the prison. Taylor helped the Vanderburg boy write some parts of a statement which has been given to one of the several lawyers retained to conduct the defense, according to authoritative information obtained here. Solicitor Carpenter indicated that he will make up his mind later concerning the nature of the verdict he will ask of the court that will try Vanderburg. When asked whether or not the prisoner will be prosecuted on both charges of first degree murder and of arson, each a capital offense, the solicitor replied that he has been giving his attention to other cases coming earlier to trial.

Vanderburg Said To Have Owned Guilt

Attorneys Deny That Self-Defense Plea Will Be Used By Gaston Youth.

Gastonia, March 7.—In a statement given out here tonight, Solicitor John G. Carpenter declared that the state has secured witnesses who will testify that they have heard Jacob Vanderburg, Gaston county youth, awaiting trial here on charges of killing five members of his family and burning the home, confess that he slew his father. Further than that, the solicitor would not speak. He declined to say if Vanderburg's reputed confession made any mention of self-defense.

Deny Confession. Attorneys for Vanderburg declared tonight that, so far as they know, his plea will not be one of self-defense as was indicated in a dispatch sent to an afternoon paper today.

Mr. Julius Smith Taken To Hospital. Mr. Julius Smith was taken ill today with a heart trouble and he was removed to the hospital for treatment. His condition is said to be quite serious and his son Dixon Smith of Columbus, Ga., has been called to his bedside. His stepson, Representative O. M. Mull now in Raleigh will leave his legislative duties and report here at once if there is a turn for the worse.

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New Changes In Charter Offered By City Board

Smith Family Outnumbers All Others In Shelby, Directory Shows, Blanton Family Is Next

There Are 163 People By Name Of Wilson Here, 132 Blantons, 128 Hamricks, 119 Greens, Etc. Many Odd Names Appear In Shelby Directory. Population Given As 10,662.

There are 10,662 people in Shelby, of which 9,218 are white and 1,444 are colored, according to the Selders directory recently compiled and now on sale throughout the city.

And of the 9,218 whites 163 go by the name of Smith. The Blantons of Shelby, numbering 132, take second place, the Hamricks are third with 128, the Greens fourth with 119, the Wilsons fifth with 110, and the Jones sixth with 109. No other family name appears in the directory as many as 100 times. Families approaching the 100 mark, however, include the Roberts, the McSwains, the Bridges, the Beams, and several others.

Alphabetically. The directory is compiled alphabetically, and a study of the 10,000 names reveals some interesting facts. There is not a single citizen of Shelby whose name begins with "X", while the only residents whose names begin with "Z" are two colored people by the name of Zachary. In the white population there are only two listed under "U", one an Underwood and the other Upshaw.

Shelby surnames suggesting occupations follow: Porter, Painter, Weaver, Carpenter, Cook, Miller, Baker, Hunter, Butler, Carver, Chandler and Cooper. All directions are represented the names of the directory except south, the others being East, West, and North.

There are four color families in Shelby—White, Black, Green and Brown.

And when it comes to money, try these names—Gold, Silver, and Cash. Two other family names are Short and Long. Then there is a Queen family, a King family, a Duke family, and an Earl family. In the musical lines there are such names as Horn, Drum, and Bell. And a little war might be started with the following names: Camp, Caison, Sargent, Sailors, and Navey. Then two other family names suggest days of the week, Mundy and Friday.

Unusual Names. Other names unusual or not common in this section include the following: Speck, Spry, Pinchback, Senter, Trimmyer, Funney, Deenaney, Hlott, Glass, Kaniger, Chalk, Carmack, Lamb, Ham, Cleg, Kirking, Lemmons, Low, Law, Manores, Reitz, Solomon, Yocrum, Clubb, Few, Merck, Millwood, Munn, Nettles, New, Suddeth, Oner, Pain, Tally, Schram, Teague and Tell.

Family names well known hereabouts which are misspelled include the following: Schenck spelled as "Shank," Lovelace as "Loveless," Philbeck as "Fillbeck," and Cabanis as "Caveness."

Of the 1,400 people listed 31 have the surname of Black, 14 the surname of Brown, and seven the surname of Green, and one the surname of White.

In practically every instance the names are accompanied with street addresses, and quite often with telephone numbers and occupation.

In giving the total population the directory states that approximately 1,000 people who might be classed as Shelby citizens live without the corporate limits. The directory population shows an increase of one-fourth over the special census made in 1925, or four years ago.

Two Cleveland Bills In Legislative Mill

Among the bills passed by the house of representatives is one "To permit certain Cleveland county prisoners to be worked on roads of other counties," according to Raleigh dispatches.

Another bill just introduced by Representative Mull is "To abolish a district highway commission in Cleveland county."

One Couple Secures Marriage License

Only one couple has secured marriage license here this month. The couple securing the lone license was Olden Davis and Bertha Dixon, both of Cleveland county.

In The Old Days About Shelby

Who remembers when the Shelby postoffice box was in the wooden building where Newton and Newton, attorneys, now have offices? Read the "Around Our Town" column today for some old Shelby history, including Pink Connor's cafe and the old Blanton Opera House.

Grocery Store Guttled By Fire

Piedmont Grocery And Johnson's Market In Bad Blaze Wednesday Night.

A fire, which resulted in a damage of about \$10,000 late Wednesday night gutted the interior of the Piedmont grocery store and the Home Provision company in the Paul Webb building on North Fayette street.

The blaze was first noted about 11 o'clock and due to the fact that a heavy March wind was blowing the entire business section of Shelby seemed threatened for a time, or until firemen, fighting for an hour or more, confined the blaze to the interior of one building.

The origin of the blaze, it is thought, was in a short circuit in the market room of the Home Provision company in the rear, and for a time the fire burned in that section of the building and basement before spreading generally to damage the grocery and market stocks with heat and smoke.

Two men passing in an automobile noticed the smoke seeping out of the building and notified the fire department shortly after 11 o'clock, the firm, as a matter of precaution, remaining on the scene for several hours after midnight.

Division Of Damage. Mr. Roland Elam, owner and proprietor of the grocery, estimates that his stock is damaged to the extent of a little over \$5,000 with \$2,500 insurance. Mr. Ernest Johnson, the market proprietor, estimates that his fixture and stock damage will total \$4,500 with only \$1,500 insurance. The owner of the building, Mr. Paul Webb, figures his damage to be about \$1,200 or \$1,500 covered pretty well with insurance.

Both Mr. Elam and Mr. Johnson state that they will open again for business just as soon as possible, and likely in the same building. Repairs on the building are only awaiting final adjustments by the insurance companies.

Hoover Calls Term About Farm Relief

Washington, March 7.—An extra session of the 71st congress for April 15 was called today by President Hoover.

Specifically the call proposed legislation for agricultural relief and for "limited changes of the tariff."

The proclamation says that these matters cannot in justice "to farmer, or labor and our manufacturer be postponed."

Will Let Contract For School Building

At the meeting of the Cleveland county board of education this month it was decided that the contract for the new school building for the Park-Gray district south of Kings Mountain would be let on the first Monday in April. This district recently passed a special tax election. The new building will contain seven class rooms and an auditorium.

Messrs. J. W. Hartgrove and Chas. M. Carson spent Tuesday in Lincolnton.

Miss Ruth Walker spent Sunday with Miss Ferne Malgan.

Heart Fails



Haley Fiske, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., one of America's prominent insurance men, was stricken with a heart attack in front of his home and died before medical aid could reach his side. Apparently of robust health, the death of Mr. Fiske came as a surprise and shock to his friends and associates. (International Newswire)

Suicide Pact Not A Defense In King Case, Lawyer Says

Lawyers Discourt Theory That Nerve Failed In Pact. Defense Not Talking.

Rafe King, Sharon, S. C., and Shelby man, now under bond in connection with the death of his wife, pretty school teacher, formerly of Cleveland county, has a plan of defense other than the theory that he was a party to a suicide pact and lost his nerve when his wife made the first step according to a dispatch coming out of Charlotte.

This was disclosed at Kings Mountain in an interview newspapermen secured with Clyde R. Hoey of Shelby, noted criminal lawyer and member of the defense counsel. "Mr. Hoey said, in answer to a question asked him by newspapermen, that counsel for defense had not considered this theory in studying any plan of procedure."

Mr. Hoey was reticent in discussing any phase of King's plan of defense. It was indicated that the possibility of the defense moving for a change of venue, as mentioned in news articles from Sharon, was still guiding Mr. Hoey and his associates in their statements to the press. In that article it was stated that defense attorneys refrained from discussing the case because they wished at the time of making the motion for a change of venue to point out that adverse public opinion may have been formed by the publication of disclosures of state officials, whereas Kings' side of the case had not been the subject of any of those dispatches.

Credence was given this by Mr. Hoey's statement here when he said: "We have decided that it is best for Mr. King's interest to refrain from discussing for publication, at this time, his side of the case. We have carefully followed this decision since he was arrested."

Take Three Insane People To Hospitals

Three insane citizens of Cleveland county were placed in state hospitals this week. Two of them were white, one a man and the other a woman, and they were taken to Morganton today. Earlier in the week Deputy Bob Kendrick took an insane colored woman to Goldsboro.

Messrs. J. W. Hartgrove and Chas. M. Carson spent Tuesday in Lincolnton.

Miss Ruth Walker spent Sunday with Miss Ferne Malgan.

Merchants Meet To Talk Of Light Rates

Business Men Of Town To Stage Gathering To Discuss City Light Rates.

A meeting of the merchants of Shelby is slated to be held here Tuesday morning next at 9:30 o'clock in the court house, to consider in all its ramifications, the vexed questions of the water and light rates of the city.

Those organizing the meeting, and they are representatives of the larger stores, have requested The Star to ask that every merchant in the city be present to thresh out the question of the water, and especially of the light rates, which have developed to be what might be termed, without meaning a pun, the burning question of the hour in town.

Local Textile Men Secure A Mill At Town Red Springs

Charles Mill Company Organized Here To Operate 7,000 Spindle Factory.

A local textile mill firm has been recently organized here to purchase and operate a 7,000-spindle cotton mill, formerly known as the "Dora," at Red Springs, this state.

The new firm, of which Mr. Earl Hamrick, local textile man, is president, is known as the "Charles Mill company," being named for Mr. Chas. C. Blanton, one of the stockholders. Other stockholders include Messrs. John R. Dover, Jack Dover, Charles Roberts, John Fox, and Billy Wells, of New York.

Harris Home Burns In Lower Cleveland

Gaffney.—Catching afire during the high wind Tuesday afternoon, the home of Z. M. Harris, on Gaffney route 2, near Lavinia church in Cleveland county, North Carolina, was completely destroyed together with practically all of the family's household goods. Mr. Harris had no insurance it was stated. Only the feminine members of the family were at home at the time, according to reports. An automobile in a nearby garage was moved to safety, but none of the outbuildings caught.

Vickery Buys Out Partner In Firm

Mr. Isler Sells Interest In Plumbing Establishment To His Partner.

The fact was learned today that Mr. W. E. Vickery has bought out his partner in the plumbing business, Mr. C. E. Isler, the firm trading as Isler and Vickery, and will henceforth conduct the enterprise solo.

Mr. Isler and Vickery have been operating here for sixteen months, and have been successful. Mr. Vickery told The Star he will continue in the same headquarters, as formerly. It was also learned informally that this morning he closed a deal whereby he secures the contract for the new Pendleton apartment building, which is on the eve of construction on South LaFayette street.

Cannot Be Nullified In N. C. Marriage Of Girl Under 16

Justice Clarkson Writes Vigorous Dissenting Opinion Based On Law.

Raleigh.—In an opinion written by Associate Justice George W. Connor the North Carolina supreme court Wednesday held that the parent of a girl between the ages of 14 and 16 who is married on a fraudulently procured license cannot maintain an action to nullify the marriage.

"To my mind if this action cannot be maintained the useful purpose of the act of 1923 is practically destroyed," declares Associate Justice Reviot Clarkson in a vigorous dissenting opinion.

The general assembly of 1923, to protect the chastity and purity of the young, thoughtless arts of the seducer, raised the age of consent from 14 to 16, and at the same session of the general assembly the above statute was passed to prevent hasty marriage. It is a matter of common knowledge that the good women had battled before the general assembly for long years to have the age of consent raised from

14 to 16 years."

The act referred to raised the marriageable age of a girl from 14 to 16 years, except with written consent.

Concerning it Justice Connor said:

"The effect of the amendment to said statute was to raise the age at which an unmarried female may lawfully marry from 14 to 16, but it is expressly provided therein that she may marry, although under 16, or over 14 years of age, provided a special license as therein required is procured. It has, however, been uniformly held that a marriage, without a license as required by statute is valid."

Camden county superior court was upheld in its dismissal of the case brought by Mrs. Eugenia M. Sawyer to have the marriage of her daughter, Iris, to A. F. Slack, annulled. The case attracted considerable attention at the time, the mother claiming that her daughter was under 16 years of age. Evidence purported to show that Slack and another woman, who gave her name as Iris Sawyer, obtained the license fraudulently, Slack then married the young girl.

Man Is Burned When Tank On Engine Bursts

Powell's Mill House And Machinery Burned In Blaze Which Followed Explosion.

W. T. Powell, of Union, is in the Shelby hospital in a serious condition as a result of burns he received yesterday afternoon when the kerosene, or gas tank on the engine which drives his corn mill, exploded.

The engine was running when it caught fire. Mr. Powell hurried to cut it off when the fuel tank exploded in his face, badly burning his face and hands and catching his clothing on fire. He hurried to the Mauney store nearby where his clothing was stripped off and he was brought in a car to the Shelby hospital for treatment.

The mill house and machinery were completely destroyed by the fire causing a loss of about \$4,000, Mr. Powell estimates. In addition to the machine and building, 200 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of cotton seed and 40 bushels of wheat were lost.

Mr. Powell is a man of 73 years and was owner and operator of the mill. In the building at the time of the explosion were two other men, but they were unharmed. The engine was a type which runs either on kerosene or gas or starts with gas and shifts to kerosene, so it is not known which type of fuel caused the explosion.

Standard Oil May Hold Session Here

Hert Byers, District Salesman, Has Invited Next Convention To Meet Here.

Mr. B. B. Byers, of the Standard Oil forces, making headquarters in Shelby—and one of the town's best known boosters—got home yesterday from a Standard Oil convention in Asheville and announced he had invited the organization (the sales forces of the two Carolinas) to Shelby for the next year's gathering, and he believes they will come.

The local booster was able to impress upon the convention the desirability of Shelby because of the new hotel accommodations. And he says he believes he landed the contract.

It was a three day convention, during which many interesting subjects appertaining to the world of transportation were discussed. R. E. Ellis, of New York, made an address, Mr. Byers said, in which he predicted that within ten years in this country, airplanes will be as common in the air as automobiles now are on terra firma.

Hold Jolley Under A Heavy Bond For Shooting Of Two

One Colored Boy Shot Not Improving Rapidly. Bond Of \$3,000.

Dick Jolley, colored youth, who shot two other negro boys about noon Wednesday near the colored school here, remains in the county jail in default of the \$3,000 bond set by Judge Horace Kennedy.

It was expected that the preliminary hearing could be held yesterday or today, but after leaving the hospital the youngest of the two boys shot, Alvin Hoskins, failed to show improvement and as yet is unable to come to court. There is some fear that blood poisoning may develop in the bullet wound in the leg, it is said.

The Hoskins boy was hit by a stray bullet when Jolley was shooting at Leo Abrams, who was struck with one bullet.

Shelby Highs Off For State Tourney

Play Newbern Team At State College Today. Ten Players On Trip.

The Shelby high cagers, Cleveland county champions, left yesterday for Raleigh where they will compete in the State college tournament. Their first game in the tourney is scheduled for 11:15 today with Newbern.

Making the trip with the 10 players were the coaches and Ralph Gardner, the team manager.

Master Nix Jenkins spent Sunday with Master Vegne Petty.

Bill Similar To First Except On Mayor's Salary

City Officials Forward Charter Change To Raleigh To Supplement Hamrick Bill.

The mayor and aldermen of Shelby, who protested the bill now in Raleigh to make several changes in the city charter, today outlined a charter change bill of their own and forwarded it to Representative Odus M. Mull at Raleigh.

The changes in the charter as outlined in the new bill are very near the same changes as outlined in the first bill sent to Raleigh as outlined by T. W. Hamrick, former alderman, with the exception of the salary limitations of the mayor and city manager, or the mayor-manager.

Salary Figures.

The bill fathered by the city board, which held a special meeting last night and again today to discuss the proposition, contains a paragraph saying that the salary of the mayor, if he does not give full time to the office, be limited to \$50 per month, but if he decides to give full time as mayor and manager that his salary not exceed \$250 per month. In case the mayor does not serve as full time manager the bill suggests that the charter be so changed that the city board have the authority to employ a city manager at a salary not to exceed \$250 per month, which would be \$50 less per month for mayor and manager than suggested in the first bill with the view of amending the charter.

Their Letter. The city officials explain their charter proposals in the following letter to The Star:

To Editor of The Cleveland Star: The board of aldermen of the town of Shelby are today forwarding to Representative Mull the following suggested changes in the town charter; and if these changes do not meet with the approval of the people of Shelby, it is hoped that they will notify Mr. Mull of their wishes so that any changes which are actually made may be satisfactory to the majority of our citizens.

The aldermen are of the opinion that any changes in the town charter should be discussed thoroughly in a public meeting where any citizen would have the right to express his opinion on any suggested changes; and they further wish the public to distinctly understand that they do not desire to assume the authority of dictating what changes, if any, should be made therein. However, since this matter has gone as far as it has, and since there is not time in which to thoroughly consult the people at large as to their wishes, the following is being mailed to Mr. Mull with the opinion that the changes herein indicated are an improvement over the proposed changes published in The Star a few days ago.

The aldermen are satisfied with the present charter, except they feel that the word "town" should be changed to read "city" wherever it appears therein. However, if any changes are to be made, they prefer that they be as follows:

- 1.—Change corporate name of the municipality from "town of Shelby" to "city of Shelby," amend section 1, et seq.
2.—Change day of week designated for election of mayor and aldermen from "first Monday in May" to "first Tuesday in May," amend section 6.
3.—Amend section 12 so as to require that candidates for mayor and aldermen shall receive a majority of all votes cast before they can be declared and duly elected officials of the city; and in the event that any one of them does not receive a majority of the votes cast at the regular election on the first Tuesday in May, then the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes, respectively, shall enter a second election to be held on the second Tuesday in May; and the candidate receiving the majority of the votes shall then be declared duly elected.
4.—The mayor and board of aldermen, thirty days before their term of office expires, shall elect a member of their board to be known as "alderman at large and mayor pro tem," who shall serve for the next succeeding term of two years. Said member, as alderman at large, shall have power to vote in any meeting of the board of aldermen in the event that any regular

(Continued on page eleven)