

The Lenoir Weekly News.

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AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

PRICE \$1.00 THE YEAR.

VOLUME VIII.

LENOIR, N. C., APRIL 20, 1906.

NO. 41.

BLACKBURN ON TRIAL.

Judge Rules Against Defendant— Later News More in His Favor.

Greensboro, April 17.—The trial of Edmond Spencer Blackburn, Congressman from the eighth district, was begun here to-day before Judge Nathan Goff, of West Va., and will continue several days. Mr. Blackburn is charged with violating section 1,782 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, in practicing for compensation before a Department at Washington. The defendant is indicted on three charges, covering three separate and distinct transactions, as follows:

First, taking \$100 from T. A. Davis, to secure the settlement of a case with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington, in connection with unstamped whiskey seized in December, 1904, near Winston.

Second, charges were preferred that Congressman Blackburn accepted \$500 as compensation for appearing before the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to secure the release of a distilling plant seized by the government officers as the property of Ace Dinkins, of Williams.

Third, taking \$50 as fee from W. R. Krider, of Salisbury, in connection with the seizure of some empty stamped whiskey barrels.

LOOKS GLOOMY FOR BLACKBURN.

At the close of the trial this afternoon, it looked pretty gloomy for Mr. Blackburn. Judge Goff criticized him in his remarks about what a man should do when elected to Congress to represent all of the people. Those who heard the argument of the lawyers for and against sustaining certain demurrers presented by counsel for the defense seemed to feel certain that the charges against Blackburn were farcical, but, when late in the day, after all argument was in, and Judge Goff declined to sustain the demurrers, then the crowd felt sorry for the defendant.

Greensboro, April 18.—Things look brighter for Blackburn to-night and, if the prosecuting attorneys do not work some great surprise in the way of additional testimony to-morrow, the charges against him are bound to fall down unless the jury sees differently from the multitude of people who attended court to-day. The government has not made out its case and all of the testimony seems to be in. It is said that District Attorney Holton will be put on the stand in the morning and that he will tell something of more than ordinary interest, but those who are conversant with the facts do not believe that he will testify or if he should, that he could not throw any more light on the matter in question than has already been developed.

Sheriff W. A. Summers left this morning for Morganton in charge of Bob Moose, who will be confined in the hospital there. Moose lived on the Buffalo Shoals road and recently lost his mind—Statesville Landmark. [This middle line tough on the Sheriff.—Ed. NEWS.]

It is poor economy to walk from your home to your place of business in order to save car fare and then smoke a ten cent cigar while walking.

When a young man calls to take a girl out and she keeps him waiting, it is because she's washing the supper dishes, or is primping.

A good dinner without a good appetite is an aggravation.

SAN FRANCISCO SORELY SMITTEN.

Earthquakes followed by fire. 20,000 people homeless and hundreds dead.

Beginning early last Wednesday morning, a series of severe earthquakes occurred along the Pacific coast, working death and destruction. The greatest loss was in San Francisco, where fire followed the earthquakes, causing great loss of property. The falling buildings killed and wounded many people running the death list up in to the hundreds and possibly thousands.

At last accounts the fire was not under control and over 20,000 people are homeless. It is impossible at this time to give any idea of the property loss, but it will run into hundreds of millions.

Other towns and cities also suffer much. At Santa Rosa between 200 persons are reported dead and the property loss is very great. Ten thousand are rendered homeless. San Jose, Santa Barbara, Gilroy, Santa Cruz and Hollister all suffered greatly.

Many offers of assistance are tendered. Congress has passed a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to render any assistance he may deem proper, by the loan of tents, to the mayors of the stricken cities and by issuing rations to the destitute as far as possible.

CITY LIES IN ASHES.

San Francisco, April 20.—At midnight the flames were slowly but steadily moving on portions of San Francisco still untouched. The sky presented a lurid picture. The strongest fire seemed to be in the western end of the city, while the volume of flames in the Mission district would indicate that the conflagration was less severe than during the day.

MARKS COMPLETE RUIN.

All efforts to check the spread of the flames at Van Ness avenue by blowing up a mile of buildings on the East side of Van Ness avenue proved fruitless. The fire has spread across the broad thoroughfare and from present indications the entire western addition, which contains the homes of San Francisco's wealthiest class, is now doomed. The destruction of the western addition of the city completes the work of the ravaging flames and marks the devastation of the entire city.

DAY OF UNEVEN STRUGGLE.

This has been another day of uneven struggle of man against an unconquerable element. Acre after acre has been ground into dust and ashes, despite the heroic perseverance of the firemen to limit the conflagration.

To-night there is a hope that the worst has been nearly reached and that when to-morrow dawns the end will have come; but the hope is faint. If the flames can be barred from the western addition, then the end will be written to the great disaster.

RELIEF WORK BEGUN.

San Francisco is not discouraged. Its best and highest class has already begun to plan for restoration and to care for the stricken ones, and the relief will be immediate and effective. Total subscriptions of \$180,000 were announced to-night. Arrangements were made for the immediate relief of the needy. The baking of 50,000 loaves of bread daily will begin to-morrow. Free transportation will be provided by the Southern Pacific Railroad to destitute persons desiring to go to interior points.

ROBBING THE DEAD.

San Francisco, April 19.—Des-

pite the vigilance of police and soldiers many places were pillaged in the wholesale region. The liquor stores were broken into and vagabonds were lying in the streets.

The ruin in the commission and the wholesale quarters is complete, the flames of last night having completed the paralyzing work of the morning.

Under the debris were killed and buried hundreds of horses hitched to vegetable wagons which were ready to receive the days' supplies.

The dead horses were piled high and the wreckage blocked the streets until the advancing conflagration turned all that section of the town into a vast funeral pyre.

Last night hundreds of firemen and rescuers were prostrated by the strain of the continual fight since early in the morning. In the crowds at many points people fainted and in some instances dropped dead of shock.

Congress has voted \$1,000,000 for relief of the sufferers. J. D. Rockefeller gave \$100,000, the United Railway Investment Co. \$75,000, J. P. Morgan & Co. \$25,000.

The Latest Luxury.

"Smoking cars for women will be provided on our trains de luxe," says the general superintendent of the Pennsylvania system, commenting on the running of a train London to Liverpool yesterday with the label "Ladies smoking" on one of the coaches.

With all due regard to the privileges of the American woman, we hope not. Weather she shall puff an occasional cigarette at her own dinner table among a select circle of her friends, or even perhaps, in the ladies' den of a hotel, is a matter that she may be trusted to take care of herself. There may be certain piquancy in a cigarette lightly held and saucily smoked, so the omniscient and indulgent story writer avers. But the introduction of smoking cars for women will mean something more than a casual cigarette.

It will mean that there are women so addicted to tobacco that they are not comfortable on a journey of even a few hours—like the journey from London to Liverpool—if they are deprived of the weed. It will imply that there are respectable American women who puff cigarettes when they read the morning newspapers, when they give the cook her daily orders, when they make their elaborate toilets, when they write their notes to friends, and when they receive at night.

The smoking car as an institution implies two accomplished facts: the tobacco habit carried to the point of slavery, and the practice of smoking in public, on the streets. Because even the stoutest champion of the equality of the sexes is squeamish about welcoming or promoting either thing, so far as the gentler sex is concerned, smoking cars for women will not recommend themselves to popular favor.—New York Mail.

[In the sight of God and in the light of a true moral code, the women have the same right to these things that the men have. But as we "Lords of Creation" make the laws and codes of society, the smoking car for Ladies is away off in the dim future.—Editor NEWS.]

Easter Day.

Industrial News.

God speaks through nature to the heart of man and he who looks may see in the coming of spring, in every budding tree and bursting bloom heralds of the glory that fills all the earth to-day. Through the long, dreary sketches of the winter the tomb has held nature

behind the stone of ice and snow, but now that stone has been rolled away and nature comes forth radiant of face and beautiful of mien. The call is made to man's heart and man's heart responds with an outpouring of joy and gladness. But all this is but a symbol, a forerunner of another resurrection.

A little babe is born in Bethlehem—a helpless little babe to outward seeming. Through the long years of babyhood and boyhood and early manhood he lives a lowly, eventful life. But the appointed times come. He preaches the new gospel of love and life. His followers are few and lowly. Those in high places demand his blood. And the cruel journey from Pilate's court to Cavalry's hill begins with hollow mockery and ends with ignominious death. In the tomb his body is laid, his friends are scattered and fearful—his enemies triumphant. And so Friday gives place to Saturday and Saturday fades away.

But how different she seems at the first rays of Easter sun break upon a darkened world!

The conqueror death is conqueror no longer. The shackles of sin are stricken from the human race, as the God man rises glorious and triumphant from the tomb.

Nearly nineteen centuries have come and gone since that first Easter day, but still the Christian world sees in spirit its God and brother who had shown Himself its brother by His suffering, now shows Himself its God in Glory.

But grand and magnificent as was that resurrection it holds for us another and a deeper meaning. That the Son of God could rise superior to death after three days or three thousand days is but in keeping with our belief in His omnipotence, but we are taught to believe and do believe that as Christ rose, so shall we some day rise from our long sleep and wear the garments of glory if during life we have woven those garments for the coming day.

What, then, could be filled with a greater significance than this day? What could make us more clearly see or more deeply feel the underlying principal of all real morality—all true religion—the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man?

Christ our Lord is risen, glorious and immortal. Then let our nobler ideals, our better nature on this Easter day push back the stone of selfishness and of sin, and come forth to greet the risen Savior.

Fast Mail Appropriation Won by a Close Vote.

Charlotte Observer, 13th.

The end of the Southern fast mail appropriation contest came this afternoon with both sides neck and neck as they came under the wire. At first a division was called for, which resulted in such a close vote that the ayes and noes were called, and the counting of noes showed 96 in favor of recommending the provision to the committee with instructions to strike it from the file, while 99 members opposed the motion, and the appropriation stands. As a matter of fact, the first count stood about even, but while the vote was being tabulated several members came in and asked to be recorded, when the Speaker announced the vote as previously stated. The four North Carolina members, Messrs. Poin, Small, Gudger and Blackburn, really saved the day for No. 97, for without their votes the opponents would probably have won out. Of course Mr. Blackburn was not present, but was paired in favor of the appropriation. Last year the advocates of the appropriation won out by a majority of something like 90.

WAKE FOREST THE VICTOR.

Interesting Event in Raleigh.

The News and Observer.

Raleigh, April 16.—In the first of the series of inter-collegiate debates here to-night, between Wake Forest College and Mercer, of Georgia, the North Carolina debaters won a signal victory. Weather-

spoon, of Wake Forest, proved the strongest speaker of the quartette.

The debate to-night marked the beginning of a series of debates between North Carolina and Georgia which will be of interest to a great many people. The interest in to-night's debate was manifested by an unusually large crowd coming to Raleigh to attend the debate. Nearly every Wake Forest student was here and a great many citizens of Wake Forest and adjoining towns.

Drowned in Johns River.

Charlotte Observer.

Morganton, April 16th.—Mr. Charles Epley, of Morganton, was drowned yesterday morning while crossing Johns River at Perkins' ford. Mr. Epley left town early Sunday morning driving a surry and a pair of horses. He took a Mr. Whitener out near Ches-

terfield, on the Lenoir road. He crossed the Catawba and Johns rivers on the bridges, but decided to return to town by the fords. Miss Susie Perkins, who lives about one hundred yards from the ford of Johns river, was sitting on her porch and heard the horses as they stepped into the water. Knowing the river was too high for anyone to cross she rushed out, but only saw one horse and part of the surry. Mr. Epley evidently drowned as Miss Perkins is sure she would have heard any outcry. The horses and front wheels have been found lodged in a tree about a quarter of a mile below the ford. Nothing has been seen of the body and it will be impossible to drag the river while it is so high. Johns river is a most treacherous stream rising very rapidly. We had quite a heavy rain on Saturday afternoon and the river was up more than three feet on Sunday morning. Mr. Epley was in the livery business and was about 30 years of age.

To Enlarge Plant.

The J. H. Coffey Wagon Company of this place is making arrangements to very much increase the plant of the company here.

A reorganization of the company is now in progress and the authorized capital will be \$100,000.

We understand a charter will be applied for as soon as \$25,000 of stock is subscribed and the work of enlarging the factory will proceed. Coffey has been successfully engaged in the manufacture of vehicles for some time and is now enlisting others in the enterprise.

Mr. J. E. Mattocks is interested in the enterprise and says they are placing the stock readily and that they will soon be ready to organize the larger company.

Strange Case of Blindness.

The Salisbury Post says that while Mr. W. A. Hedrick was at work on his farm at Silver Hill, Davidson county, Saturday, his vision became clouded and he soon realized that he was blind. Since then he has been unable to see. He has consulted an oculist in Salisbury and while there is hope that he may be helped there is little possibility that his sight will be entirely restored. He had not been troubled with his eyes before and the attack was sudden.—Ex.

News Items.

Lexington has organized a \$125,000 Roller top Disk Factory.

The Southern Railway is to build a new \$27,000 passenger station at High Point.

The Sisters of Charity have just opened a magnificent \$125,000 hospital in Greensboro.

The annual convention of the State Literary Society will meet in Raleigh April 27th and 28th.

The winter season just closed at Southern Pines has been the most successful in the history of the place.

A new passenger train will be put on the Southern Railway between Salisbury and Asheville on May 1st.

The Bradford Knitting mills with an authorized capital of \$100,000 was chartered for Statesville this week.

The Democrats of Stanley county held their convention last Tuesday and instructed for Hackett for Congress.

A poll tax receipt is required to insure you a vote in the November election. Is such a thing in your possession?

The first fatal riot of the present coal strike occurred at Johnston, Pa. Monday night. Three were killed and two wounded.

Tom Southern, who lived at Arden, eight miles from Asheville, got off a train there Tuesday night stepped in front of an approaching car and was killed.

The North Wilkesboro Farmer says: a trolley line is spoken of from that place via Boone and Blowing Rock to point on the South & Western Railway in Mitchell county.

The Senate last week passed a bill appropriating \$25,000 for a monument to Gen. Nathaniel Green to be erected on Guilford battle ground. The measure has yet to pass the House.

Ex Governor C. B. Aycock was last week tendered and appointment by the President as delegate to the Pan American Congress, which meets in Brazil. He declined the honor on the ground of pressing private business.

The Chronicle says that Jim Cheatham, who was probably 100 years old, and who claimed to be 104, died Monday of last week at his home in Lovelace township, Wilkes county. He was a soldier in the Cherokee Indian war.

Capt. J. G. Morrison, last surviving member of Stonewall Jackson's staff died Wednesday night at the home of his sister, Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, in Charlotte. His home is in Lincoln county and his wife and six children survive.

The barn of Sheriff McLeod, near Lumberton, was burned Wednesday morning with 19 bales of cotton, several tons of guano, a pair fine mules and a lot of feed. Fire believed to be incendiary. Loss about \$5,000, with \$500 insurance.

A local company at Mt. Airy has been granted a franchise to build a car line from a point near the depot in that town to White Sulphur Springs, five miles away. It is stated that work on the line will begin at once and that it may be completed by mid-summer.

Statesville has organized a new and independent telephone company, known as the Iredell Telephone Co., with a capital stock of \$50,000. The new company has been organized in opposition to the Bell Telephone Co., which recently got control of the Telephone Exchange in that town.