

POWHATAN COURT HAS HEAVY DOCKET

Case Against S. R. Morgan and Several Murder Trials to Be Heard.

Special to The Gazette.
Walnut Ridge, Jan. 7.—The Lawrence Circuit Court for the Western District will open at Powhatan Monday, January 15, with one of the heaviest dockets in several years. Judge Coleman, re-elected last November, will preside.

One murder trial, the trial of S. R. Morgan, thrice indicted banker, and the trial of H. H. Caldwell, former sheriff removed from office on charges of embezzlement, will furnish the most important cases.

It is almost a certainty that Mr. Morgan, former president of the defunct bank of Black Rock, and Little Rock bond broker, will come to trial at this term of court. Morgan has been successful in obtaining continuances of his case for two years, the last time on account of illness. He was to have been tried at the last August term of the Powhatan court, but eluded officers and left for his home in Little Rock where he was captured by Sheriff John Long and returned as far as Kensett by automobile before Morgan's attorneys overtook Lawrence county officers with habeas corpus writs and obtained his release.

Bond Is Doubled.
Morgan appeared later for trial, but was granted a continuance after the evidence of physicians showed him to be unable to stand trial. His bond was doubled by Judge Coleman from \$3,000 to \$6,000, and his trial set for the second day of court. It is believed that Morgan will apply for a change of venue.

A. H. Proctor, former cashier of the Bank of Black Rock, also indicted on charges growing out of the failure of the bank, has been called for trial at the coming term.

The Grand Jury will investigate the case of Mose Thompson, aged 33, held on a first degree murder charge by Justice J. F. Franks at Black Rock following the killing of Robert Weir, aged 58, October 20. Thompson was denied bail by Justice Franks, but later was released on \$5,000 bail following habeas corpus proceedings before Judge J. C. Childres. Thompson is alleged to have shot Weir three times, one shot taking effect in Weir's head and the other two in the back. Physicians said that either shot would have killed Weir. The trouble is said to have come up over family matters.

H. H. Caldwell, former sheriff, and who was removed from office last August by Judge Coleman following the returning of an indictment by the Grand Jury charging him with embezzlement, also will be tried. Caldwell was checked up about \$1,800 short by the commissioners of accounts it is charged.