

## FAST MAIL TRAIN ON SOUTHERN HELD UP

Gainsville, Ga., Feb. 18.—Southern Railway train No. 36, the United States fast mail, bound from New Orleans to New York, was held up by five masked men at White Sulphur Springs, four miles from here, at 3:15 o'clock this morning. The express car safe was dynamited and the contents stolen. First reports said more than \$100,000 was taken, but Southern Railway officials declare the amount was \$700. None of the passengers were molested. The robbers escaped in an automobile, and are now thought to be in Hill county, probably bound for North Georgia, where pursuit would be difficult. A posse is on the trail. The robbers broke down the doors of the railroad station at White Sulphur, bound the night agent and set the signal for the train to stop. As the locomotive slowed up, one of the men entered the cab and ordered the engineer to proceed to Eula, a small station several miles away. After a stop was made, members of the gang entered the express car, and while one held the conductor and express messenger at the point of a gun, the others blew open the door of the safe containing the money. Agent Terrell of the Southern Express Company, Deputy United States Marshal Landers, Detective Hauce of the Southern Railway, and Deputy Sheriff Little are with the posse with bloodhound in pursuit. Poses returning tonight from the country surrounding the scene of the hold-up this morning report no trace of the robbers. Tomorrow the man hunt will be taken up again and will be in charge of detectives of the Southern Railway, Southern Express Company and county officials. Descriptions of the robber secured here indicate that one of the men was rather tall and stoop shouldered with stubby mustache and apparently about 40 year old. Another is described as looking and acting like a countryman. All the men wore masks. Members of the main posse which started in pursuit of the bandits, state that the bandits evidently were prepared to throw dogs off their scent, for red pepper had been dashed over the trail at intervals.

## GOVERNMENT PAYS POORLY FOR HAULING THE MAIL

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—The history of the Railway Mail business is interesting for two salient features, the great increase in the service rendered the Government and the people by the railroads, and the corresponding decrease in pay. It seems hard to realize that the Government should set the example of poor pay for services rendered, yet this is a fact when it comes to the postoffice department poorly paying the railroads for the great service they give. For instance, in 1907, the railroads received \$49,757,960 for carrying the mails. The year following, notwithstanding the fact of an increase in volume amounting to \$7,983,658, the railroads received a decrease of \$1,602,582 less than the previous year, and for last year the report of the Postmaster General shows that the revenue of the Department (and consequently the volume of mail handled) increased \$40,543,652 over that of 1907, but not one cent of increase in payment to the railroads for the hauling and furnishing cars for distribution of the vast increase in amount of mail carried, over twenty-two per cent, and producing as stated, over \$40,000,000 of revenue; in fact, the railroads were actually paid \$352,760 less in 1910 than in 1907.

Margaret Perkins was obliged to give a bond before she became telephone operator in a hotel in Spokane, Wash. This instrument signed and sealed, holds her bondsmen liable to the extent of \$500 in the event she becomes a bride on or before June 21, 1911.

## HIGH POINT MAN KILLS HIS WIFE AND SON-IN-LAW

High Point, Feb. 18.—A horrible crime was committed at five o'clock this morning in the Cloverdale section of High Point by a white man named Speaks, a native of the Western States, but who came to High Point a few years ago. His age is about fifty years. After getting up this morning Speaks got a butcher knife and with this stabbed his wife through the heart, killing her almost instantly. He then went over to the home of his son-in-law, William Miller, a short distance from the Speaks home, and with the same knife attacked Miller, grabbing him on both sides of the breast, inflicting wounds that will likely prove fatal. Speaks then disappeared and the officers have not been able to locate him. Speaks is mentally unbalanced. He came here from an insane asylum and his family and friends have for some time regarded him a dangerous character, on account of his mental condition. Yesterday he gave one of his daughters a severe whipping and she left home, going over to the home of Mr. Miller, her brother-in-law. It is believed that the father became angry with his wife and daughter on account of the latter having left home and that this was the real cause of his atrocious crime. It is also believed that he would have killed his daughter this morning had he found her when he went to the Miller home. Speaks was supported by his wife and children, and for some time they have been making an effort to get him in the state hospital at Morganton, feeling as they did, that during one of his attacks of insanity he might commit some horrible crime.

## SECOND VICTIM OF SPEAKS DIED SUNDAY

High Point, N. C., Feb. 19.—Will Miller, who was fearfully stabbed with the same knife with which Moses Speaks killed his wife Saturday, died this morning in a local hospital Miller was the murderer's son-in-law. Speaks is still at large, having succeeded in eluding the posses of officers which is scouring the country for him. Speaks undoubtedly committed the double crime while insane. He had recently been discharged from a Boston asylum for the feeble minded. LATER.—Moses Speaks was captured late Monday night in Yadkin county by the Sheriff of that county. He was making his way through the country from High Point to a farm which he owns in North Iredell, or Southern Wilkes county, his former home.

## EXPERT'S OPINION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

W. M. Acworth, recognized as the highest authority on Railways in Great Britain and an author of several standard works on railroads of Great Britain and America, testified before the Railroad Securities Commission in New York recently that after a two months study of American Railroads. "It has always been my opinion that in actual economy of operation the railways of the United States are first in the world. In the number of tons per car; cars per train; in the fullest utilization of locomotives; in the obtaining of the greatest measure of result for each unit of expenditure, they are not equalled by the railways of any other nation."

A strange coincidence happened to W. J. Burt, of Cuero, Tex. He dreamed one night he had cut his left foot with an axe. Next morning he went to the wood pile, and the first blow he cut his left foot just below the ankle; making a severe gash.

## A CASE OF MYSTERY SHOT HIS BROTHER WHILE EATING SUPPER

Farmer Near Elizabeth City Mysteriously Disappears. Elizabeth City, Feb. 17.—Much excitement has been caused in southern suburbs by the mysterious disappearance of Ed. Gibbs, a prominent farmer, 52 years old. Gibbs left home about two miles from town, this morning at 4 o'clock, en route to Elizabeth City to get a load of barrels. He waked his wife and she gave him \$5 to purchase the barrels. This is the last seen of him. Early before day a horse and cart, without a driver, was seen by the fireman at Kramer's saw mill on Riverside avenue. At noon the same horse and cart were seen at G. T. Hughes' store on Factory avenue. Being recognized as Gibbs' horse, it was carried to Scott's stables by friends. Not having any call for them, word was sent to Gibbs' wife, who hastened to town this afternoon. She told about her husband leaving, etc., and that was the last seen of him. Mrs. Gibbs was very uneasy, and inquiries were sent throughout the city among those who knew Gibbs. No one has been found who has seen him today. Foul play is the only solution of the mysterious disappearance. Gibbs is a steady, hard working farmer, and is held in the highest regard by neighbors and citizens of this section. Search is being made, but no important clues are anticipated before daylight, when Sheriff Reid and posse will scour the country for the missing man.

## THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF GREENVILLE, S. C. KILLED.

Asheville, Feb. 17.—The police department of Asheville received information this afternoon to the effect that the two white men that murdered the chief of police and another officer at Greenville S. C. this morning were within eighteen miles of Hendersonville and headed this way. The local authorities immediately got busy and the Southern Railway placed at the disposal of the city and county authorities a special train. The engine and tender left Biltmore at 6:30 o'clock this afternoon, carrying six officers duly sworn in. The officers included two deputy sheriffs, two patrolmen and two private citizens. The posse which went to Hendersonville on the special train returned to the city without getting the men at Hendersonville. They learned that the two men supposed to be the murderers were captured near Tryon and taken back to Greenville in an automobile. Each train is being carefully watched here tonight as Asheville authorities do not believe the captured men are the ones wanted.

The Baraca Class of Webb Avenue Sunday school is meeting every Thursday night for the study of the Sunday School lesson. The class will meet next Thursday night at the home of the teacher J. W. Wright.

All in favor of putting our county officers on Salaries instead of Fees sign the Coupon below and send to the DISPATCH, this means \$5000.00 a year in the pockets of the Tax Payers of Alamance County.

Hon. J. Elmer Long,  
House of Representatives,  
Raleigh, N. C.

I favor putting our County officers on Salaries instead of Fees, paying them fair and liberal but not extravagant salaries and ask you to have a bill passed making this a law. Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## WHILE EATING SUPPER

Sam Ramsey Empties Shot Gun Into Bad Ramsey's Body. Roanoke, Va., Feb. 16.—Boyd Ramsey, 27 years old, is in a critical condition in a Lynchburg hospital as a result of a gunshot wound inflicted by his brother, Sam Ramsey, last night in their home at Rebertson, Bedford County. The shooting is said to have been the result of a recent difficulty between the two brothers. Boyd was at the supper table when Sam appeared at the door and leveled a shotgun at him. He fired, the lead striking Boyd in the shoulder. The young man was taken to Lynchburg. Sam escaped and has not been apprehended. The father of the boys swore out a warrant for the arrest of his son Sam. The wounded man was operated on today but there is little chance for his recovery. The brother who did the shooting is married and has two children. The wounded brother is single.

## BANK ON WHEELS IN PATTERSON, N. J.

Patterson, N. J., Feb. 16.—Patterson is all worked up over a bank on wheels. One of the Patterson trust companies has equipped a steel lined automobile somewhat along the lines of the motors formerly used by the Night and Day bank to gather up the late cash receipts in the restaurant belt of Broadway and is going to send it out in the country to catch the wayside depositors. The portable bank was on exhibition in front of the trust company's offices today. Hundreds of interested and curious persons viewed the peculiar-looking machine. The car is fitted up with a desk and office equipment, including compartments and books, checks and papers. A solid steel safe is built in one corner. The body of the car is painted steel color. A small window, guarded with heavy steel and brass bars, and a liberal spade for firearms, will afford the clerks protection on their travels.

## Boy Accidentally Killed.

Lacy Shepard the fourteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Shepard of Elon College received injuries Sunday which resulted in his death the next morning. Lacy in company with several other boys was playing along the Railroad track when he attempted to catch the freight train which follows passenger train No. 131. The body was thrown under the cars one leg and arm cut off and other bruises received. He was carried to St. Leo's Hospital Greensboro but died at nine o'clock Monday morning. Funeral and burial services were conducted Tuesday from Frieden's Lutheran Church by Rev. Sox of Gibsonville.

## SURPRISED AT THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 18. Editor State Dispatch: I see that you are advocating salaries for your county officers, instead of fees; and I am surprised and regret to see that my friend Crowson is fighting it. As to the county officers, you cannot expect anything more from them, but of course they will look to their own interest, and are not going to favor any measure that will take about one-half, or any part of their salary. We had the same fight in Guilford, every office holder and every one that ever expected to be an office holder, threw every obstacle in the way, and almost proved their case that the county would lose largely by adopting this system, however, Dr. Gordon, our Representative in the Legislature four years ago took the bull by the horns and passed the bill. It has now been in force two years—except to Clerk of Court, and he went on salary Dec. 1st 1910 and the tax payers of Guilford have saved in two years nearly \$22,000.00, and it is growing larger every year, as the county grows larger, and a good many think that Guilford will save this year \$12,500.00. And again after the officers are put on a salary and the affairs of the county put on a business basis, every one can see what the taxes are spent for and then with a fair, but not extravagant salary, this growing evil of graft is largely eliminated. I notice that my friend Crowson intimated that it takes half a years salary to get elected to office in Alamance. Then, if for no other reason than this, he should favor salaries. Keep up the fight and you will win finally. A NATIVE.

## SOUTHERN PROSPERS

Directors Declare Dividend and Authorize Extensive Improvements. New York, Feb. 17.—The first dividend to be paid on the preferred stock of the Southern Railway company since October of 1907 is to be distributed on April 24, the directors of the road having declared a dividend of 1 per cent, today. The payment is made for no specific period, and President Finley said that it was the intention of the management to maintain payments in the future, although no information was obtainable as to what yearly rate was contemplated. Extensive improvements, including expansion of freight facilities at important points, were authorized by the board, and the president was empowered to take up the question of the purchase of additional rolling stock. Mr. Finley said that since details of the improvement plans had not been completed, he was not in a position to state at what points changes would be made. In explanation of the action of the directors he said: "As the action of the board indicates, it has adopted the policy of resuming dividends on the preferred stock on a very conservative basis, in the expectation that with a continuance of favorable conditions the rate of dividend may be gradually increased until the full dividend can again be properly paid. This resumption of dividends will not result in any modification of the present progressive policy of the company with respect to operation, maintenance and improvement of the property."

Resumption of dividends on the preferred stock was made possible by improved earnings of the road. In the six months ended December 31, the net income increased \$1,083,000 over the corresponding period of the preceding year, owing largely to the high prices of cotton. In all of 1907 the company paid 3 per cent. on its preferred stock, but at the time of the panic it suspended dividends. Between 1902 and 1907 it paid 5 per cent. annually. It never has paid anything on its common stock.

## SALARIES VERSUS FEES

Richmond, Virginia. The fee system is being flayed right and left throughout North Carolina, and it seems doomed in several counties at least. The General Assembly of the Tar Heel State, which has already enacted considerable progressive legislation, is being impertuned to pass a general act by which upon the petition of one fifth of the qualified voters, the county commissioners should be required to submit the question of "salary" or "fees" for county officers in any county at the next regular election. Already several counties in the South have put their officers on salary, and Richmond would do well to follow their example. There are a number of officers in this city paid by fee who should receive a stipulated salary commensurate with their labors, so as to not only materially cut down expenses in the municipality, but make these honorable gentlemen a trifle less autocratic. In a single county in North Carolina, Guilford, \$10,000 was saved last year by paying salaries instead of fees. There is therefore a surplus instead of a deficit. The salary system instead of fees in Richmond would work financial wonders, terminate the making of large presents to officials, and reduce the tax on the people. The fee system is all wrong and it must be abolished. There is not a single word to be said in its defense other than by the fee official. When a bill providing that the voters of Jefferson county, Ala., be allowed to regulate the fees of the county officers was defeated recently, it was learned that some of the office-holders received \$50,000 in fees. It was further divulged that several candidates for sheriff spent \$50,000 in the primary. We knew that when the people realized what placing our County officers on salaries meant to the tax payers of Alamance that something would be done. All is well that ends well and we hope that our Representative and Senators will see that this measure is enacted into law this session to go into effect December 1912.

## 15-YEAR-OLD BOY SHOOTS HIMSELF

Roanoke, Va., Feb. 18.—Otey Vines, 15 years old, shot himself through the head today at the home of his grand-father, William Vines, in Betetourt county. Apparently in fine spirits, he went to his room, and shortly afterwards the report of a gun was heard. Rushing to the room, the family found the boy on the floor unconscious, with blood flowing from a wound that penetrated the brain. The boy can not recover. It is thought that the shooting was accidental. His father, James Vines, is a guard at the State penitentiary.

## Death of Rufus Aldridge.

Mr. Rufus G. Aldridge an aged and respected citizen of R. F. D. 5 died Saturday night at his home near Longs Chapel after an illness of several months, at the age of 74 years 6 months and 18 days. He leaves a wife and five children. Messrs Jno. R. and J. A. Aldridge, Messdames J. I. Chandler and Lacy Bradsher and Miss Bettie Aldridge all of this county. Funeral and burial services were conducted Sunday evening at five o'clock at McCrays by Elder O. J. Denny. We are told by those who were personally acquainted with Mr. Aldridge that he was one of the best men they ever knew. Never ill tempered but always kind generous and sympathizing. Ready at all times to lend a helping hand to those in need. Misses Mable and Ada Belle Isley of Trinity College arrived Tuesday evening to spend a few days the guest of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Jos. A. Isley.