

MR. H. WITHERSPON SHOT

A TRAGEDY AT LANCASTER, S. C.
Manager of Lancaster Mercantile Company, Well Known in Charlotte, Shot and Dangerously Wounded by Dr. E. S. McDow, Who Recently Infiltrated at Company's Request to Send Him a Lamp-Condition Critical, but There is Some Hope of Recovery-Physician Tells W. M. Brown is Also Shot- McDow Arrested and Placed in Jail-Had Two Pistols on Person, Special to The Observer.

Lancaster, S. C., Jan. 6.—G. Hazel Witherston, the popular manager of the Lancaster Mercantile Company, of which Colonel Leroy Springs is president, was dangerously shot to-day by Dr. E. S. McDow, a prominent practicing physician of Lancaster. The difficulty occurred in front of the company's store and the particulars, as learned by your correspondent, are about as follows:

Mr. Witherston was standing talking to Mr. Samuel Roberts, a farmer from whom he had just bought some cotton, when Dr. McDow walked up and asked Mr. Witherston something about the company's refusal to send him a lamp which he had ordered. Mr. Witherston replied that the doctor had not treated him right about a baby carriage, referring to a previous matter. Dr. McDow struck at Mr. Witherston over the shoulder of Mr. Roberts, who was standing between them, knocking off Mr. Roberts' hat.

W. McD. Brown, a clerk in the store, ran up and struck Dr. McDow, knocking him down. As the doctor arose, he began shooting with the revolver which he had drawn, firing three shots. Two of the bullets struck Mr. Witherston, one in the body, entering the lungs, and the other hitting him on the wrist. One bullet struck Mr. Brown on the finger.

Mr. George Heath, manager of the Heath-Jones Company, and others, ran up and stopped the shooting. Mr. Heath picked himself in front of Mr. Witherston and begging Dr. McDow to shoot him.

DR. MCDOW ARRESTED. Dr. McDow was arrested and taken to jail by Sheriff Hunter and policemen. The sheriff first disarmed the doctor, who had two pistols. As soon as a conveyance could be secured Mr. Witherston was carried to his home. In addition to local physicians, he is being attended by Mr. Pryor, of Chester, and Drs. Fenell and Stevens, of Rock Hill, the latter having been brought in by special train. The physicians regard Mr. Witherston's condition as extremely critical. They say that there is some hope for him, however, if pneumonia does not set in, or if an abscess does not form around the bullet, which they think lodged in the lung. The shooting has caused intense excitement here. Mr. Witherston is one of the most popular young men in Lancaster being a universal favorite and the son of a community anxiously awaiting tidings from his bed-side.

This sad tragedy recalls one of the most tragic events in the history of South Carolina—the killing by the late Dr. Thomas McDow, a brother of Dr. E. S. McDow, of Capt. F. W. Dawson, editor of the Charleston News and Courier. This was some 12 or 14 years ago. A few years later Capt. Dawson's slayer was found dead in the same house where the tragedy occurred.

Mr. Witherston is well known in Charlotte, where he has visited often and where he has a large number of friends. There were many inquiries last night as to his condition. He is a cousin of Dr. E. J. Witherston, of this city.

THREE WOMEN BURN TO DEATH. Boarding House in St. Louis Catches Fire From Furnace With Fatal Results—One Life Lost in Trying to Save Others.

St. Louis, Jan. 6.—Three women were burned to death and one was injured to-day in a fire that destroyed a boarding house at 1611 Missouri avenue. The building caught fire from a furnace.

CONDUCTOR SHOT BY HOODLUM. Railroad Employee Resists Ejectment for Disorderly Conduct and is Overcome After a Struggle—Conductor Wounded in Arm.

Bristol, Va., Jan. 6.—While he was being ejected from a Southern Railway passenger train near Tomsonboro, Tenn., on account of disorderly conduct and unwarranted demolishing of railroad property, R. B. Blavens, an employe of the freight department of the road, shot conductor John S. Henry, narrowly missing his head and striking him in the arm. The conductor, finding that he was not entirely disabled, dashed upon his assailant and quickly threw him to the ground and disarmed him; later turning him over to the police at Tomsonboro, where he was lodged in jail. Captain Henry brought his train to Bristol.

LONG-STAPLE COTTON GROWERS Meeting of Association at Lake City, Fla., Urges Acreage Reduction of 25 Per Cent, and Establishment of Warehouses.

Lake City, Fla., Jan. 6.—The Association of Long-staple Cotton Growers, which met here to-day, adopted resolutions strongly advocating a reduction in long-staple cotton acreage next year of 25 per cent. The resolutions also favored the establishment of warehouses in county seats and asked that the day of paying fertilizer bills be fixed at instead of Oct. 1. The farmers were urged to borrow money from banks rather than mortgage the cotton crop, and also to sell no cotton in the seed. The association has a total membership of 20,000 long-staple cotton...

OIL MAGAZINE ROGERS MUM

BALMS COUNSEL FOR MISSOURI

No Much Progress in Made at Hearing in New York in the Direction of Excluding Alleged Subsidiary Companies of the Standard Oil Company From Gov. Folk's State-Answers to Questions Asked on Stock Ownership Retained—Attorney General Hadley Assumes Intention to Carry Matter to New York Supreme Court.

New York, Jan. 6.—It developed from questions asked by Attorney General Herbert S. Hadley, of Missouri, at a hearing at New York, Jan. 5, that the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, is conducting an examination of officers of that company in this city. It is to be determined whether the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, is conducting an examination of officers of that company in this city. It is to be determined whether the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, is conducting an examination of officers of that company in this city.

Mr. Hadley to-night declared that he would take all these questions to the Supreme Court. He stated that he had no order from the Missouri State to secure a copy of the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, or to answer the question whether he had a transaction with H. Clay Pierce in 1904 by which Mr. Rodgers acquired of the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, any stock in the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, or to answer the question whether he had a transaction with H. Clay Pierce in 1904 by which Mr. Rodgers acquired of the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, any stock in the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana.

FOUR CHARTERS GRANTED. Wholesale Shoe House, Capital \$25,000. For Charlotte—N. C. Section A. D. Lowe, of W. G. Gibson, of Raleigh, Jan. 6. City Engineer Blake is making the survey for the entry of the Raleigh and Pamlico Sound Railway into the city. It comes in near Glenwood, crossing the track of the Seaboard at Lake a mile north of the track here and its depot will be within a few yards of the power house of the Raleigh Electric Company. Work on this road is now to be pushed very rapidly.

Timely Discovery of Broken Rail Saves Seaboard Passenger Train From Wreck—Liquor Laws Openly Defied.

Laurensburg, Jan. 6.—But for the timely discovery by Messrs. Drevery Walters and J. P. Gibson of a broken rail just below Laurel Hill this morning there would probably have been a very serious wreck of the mail train from Charlotte to Whitesboro, N. C. As it was, the train was stopped by the people and repairs were made, after which the train moved slowly over the place and reported the matter through the agent at Laurensburg. The cause of the broken rail was a passenger that the railroad people ought to show these men some mark of appreciation for their act in this matter.

The whiskey question has been very complicated in this county for some time, and it was to relieve this situation that the State legislature established this year, and that at considerable expense to both States. Now the authorities of South Carolina have taken steps to blot out that blind tiger hole commonly known as "on the line," but have met with another failure, for when they arrive in the North Carolina side, they find that since South Carolina has taken the steps that she has in this matter that it is now up to the North Carolina authorities to either come to a place that will liquor business down or to repeal some of her whiskey laws and let the business be run according to law. This place is on the State line some miles above Lake in Richmond county, where a whiskey hole has been said almost as long as man can remember.

RECEIVER FOR DUNCAN ROAD. Action of United States Circuit Court in Answer to Petition Filed by Baltimore Trust Company.

Charlotte, S. C., Jan. 6.—The Union & Glenn Springs Railroad, another property in which Thomas C. Duncan, former president of the Union and English Cotton Mills, was heavily interested, was placed in the hands of a receiver to-day in the United States Circuit Court in answer to complaint and petition filed by the Mercantile Trust & Deposit Company of Baltimore. Edwin W. Robertson being appointed receiver. The Union & Glenn Springs Railroad traverses a number of townships in Union county, beginning at a point near Carolina on the Deep river and extending to the Sulphur Springs Mills. It has a number of extensions and the road is the possession of considerable real estate, franchises and other property.

FORGERY OF N. & W. STOCK

BOGUS CERTIFICATES AFLOAT

Over \$77,000 Worth Are Known to Have Been Offered to the Public and Many More May be in Existence—Detection Made Through Mistake in Printing Picture of Locomotive on Certificates—New York Brokerage Firm Said to be Involved—Railroad Company Not Liable for Losses Sustained.

Philadelphia, Jan. 6.—A number of forged certificates of the common stock of the Norfolk & Western Railroad have recently been detected. It is not known how many of these fraudulent certificates are in circulation, but eight certificates of 100 shares each have been discovered.

Accused Congressman Hull. Mr. Morris and Husband Declare That Former's Mission at White House When Ejected Was to Accuse Brother to President in Matter of Father's Will.

Washington, Jan. 6.—"This White House outrage is a burning shame and a national disgrace." So said Dr. Minor Morris, husband of Mrs. Morris, who was forcibly removed from the executive offices on Thursday last and taken to the house of detention. Dr. Morris arrived here early to-day.

WAS SLAIN AND PLACED IN BED. Important Fresh Evidence in Mysterious Murder Case at New Haven—Discovery of Blood Clot on Stocking Cause of Charge of Theory.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 6.—The announcement of the discovery of evidence pointing to the belief that Chas. A. Edwards, of New York, the victim of the mysterious murder at the Hiller family homestead, was not shot in the bed where he was found, was the most interesting development in the case to-day. This evidence came to light when an examination was made of the clothing on the body. On one of the stockings, the left one, a blood clot as large as the end of a man's thumb was discovered and blood had soaked through the stocking and spread over the top of the instep. This is considered to leave little doubt that the body was propped in the guest chamber bed after shooting, and the detectives are working on the theory that the man was not while standing or in some other position where the blood from the wound in the left side of the head would fall upon his foot. The fact that the left stocking also had blood on it, and that the spot of dirt, is believed to lend color to the theory that he was dragged in to an unconscious condition to the bed. There was no lint on the stocking which covered the right foot. It was noticed that while the body had been found imbedded in one of the walls of the guest chamber.

CUT LANDLADY'S THROAT. Murder From Unknown Motive in Chicago—Threw Victim Down Stairs and Flew—Slayer Son of Wealthy New Yorker.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—Mrs. A. W. Gentry, 52 years old, widow of the president of the Union Trust and Savings Bank, was murdered to-day for some unknown reason by a man whose police declare was a resident of Harlem. The body was found in the rooming house at 100th St. and E. 6th St. Mrs. Gentry was slain by a single blow of the back of the hand of the murderer.

WITNESS BECOMES INSANE. Climax of a Strange Case in New York State—Fugitive, Badly Enslaved by Tragedy, Loses His Mind.

New York, Jan. 6.—The climax of one of the strongest psychopathic cases with which the New York State medical authorities have ever had to deal came to-night when Frank Winiowski, a young Polish stable boy, who had been detained in a lunatic asylum for a serious shooting case in which Dr. W. Simpson, a New York dentist, is accused of killing his father-in-law, became insane.

Washedboro, Jan. 6.—Yesterday a little negro boy, Charlie Smith, while playing with another boy with a knife, was cut very seriously on the hand. He was taken to the hospital at Kings Park and the boy was an eye-witness to the tragedy and was counted the State's most important witness in the hearing of Dr. Simpson, which was begun this week. Dr. Simpson was thrown into a state of terror when taken into custody by the Norfolk authorities and held as a witness. He soon issued into a sort of stupor of unconsciousness and was aroused with difficulty and then became violent and attacked his guards. His condition necessitated a postponement of the Simpson hearing.

CLOSED BY THE EXAMINER

RUTHERFORD BANK FAILS

State Bank Examiner Haywood, by Order of Corporation Commission, Closes Doors of Bank of Rutherford and Will Ask for Appointment of Receiver—President, Secretary Says Failure is Due to Unpaid Notes and Loans Past Due and Claim Depositors Will Be Paid Dollar for Dollar—Assets \$25,000, Liabilities Not Stated—Chartered in 1881 With \$10,000 Capital.

Rutherford, Jan. 6.—Mr. F. H. Haywood, of Raleigh, State bank examiner, arrived on the Southern morning train, and after making an examination of the condition of the Bank of Rutherford, at noon to-day, closed it and posted the following notice on the door: "Bank closed by order of the North Carolina Corporation Commission, F. C. Haywood, Jr., State Bank Examiner, January 6th, 1906." Mr. Haywood, but nothing further could be obtained except that he was in charge, and that a receiver would be asked for and, of course, would be appointed.

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TALK PHILIPPINE TARIFF

NO MENACE TO HOME TOBACCO

In Three-Hour Speech in House, Mr. Hill, of Connecticut, Details Knowledge Gained From Two Visits, and on the Other Hand Mr. Mendell, of Wyoming, Opposes Bill in Beech Sugar Growers' Interest—Islands Export Tobacco Practically Concluded to Single Valley in Luzon—Mild Form of Slavery Among Moros—Massachusetts Demand for Free Hides Volced.

Washington, Jan. 6.—In a session of five hours to-day the House placed on record a speech in favor of the Philippine tariff bill, one against it, and a 30-minute talk for tariff revision according to the Republican demand of Massachusetts. Mr. Hill, of Connecticut, occupied three hours and was listened to with the greatest interest in detailing the knowledge he gained from two visits to the Philippines, the last one as a member of the party of Secretary Taft last summer. He paid particular attention to the tobacco feature of the measure.

Mr. Mendell, of Wyoming, who has led the fight against the bill in the interest of the best sugar industry of the country, spoke vigorously against the measure and against the policy of helping the Philippine people by granting them open markets in the United States. He said the passage of this bill would be the death knell of the best sugar industry in the United States.

Mr. Hill reviewed at length the tobacco industry in the Philippines, explaining the primitive methods of smoking and chewing tobacco and cigars. He said single factories in the United States make more than the entire output of manufactured tobacco in the Philippines.

Mr. Hill said a careful study of tobacco production in the islands and the expert tobacco trade had persuaded him that the United States has nothing to fear from competition with Philippine tobacco, because its inferiority and the impossibility of extensive tobacco culture in the islands.

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COURT ACQUITS DECATUR

OATH AGAINST OATH CASE

First of Alleged Hiders is Restored to Duty, but Re-Arrested Shortly Afterward on Fresh Charges, While Conviction of Midshipman Coffin Announced—Existence of Fugitive System, Whereby Under Class Men, Who are Brought to Luzon to Belong to Upper Class Men, is Showed in Marzoni Case—Southern Midshipmen Friendly Among Themselves.

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 6.—The developments to-day at the naval academy were important. Stephen Decatur, Jr., the first of the members of the first class to be put on trial, was declared acquitted and restored to duty, but was re-arrested shortly after and was tried under other charges of hazing under the act of 1872, and of encouraging or countenancing hazing under the act of 1893. It is authorizedly stated that he will fight these charges. Announcement was made unofficially that Midshipman Freeman Coffin, Jr., of the third class, from Carson City, Nev., has been convicted of hazing Midshipman Kimbrough and dismissed.

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WILL MR. HARKINS RESIGN?

8 OF BIG SIX READY TO STEP OUT

Contest Over Western District Collectorship Expected to Open Up Soon—Declared That Messrs. Harkins, Holton, and Milliken Are Willing to Resign Without Contest—Prof. Hill Mentioned as Harkins' Successor—Only 374 Thinks in Departments—Mr. Overman Will Ask for Information as to Number of Employees of Canal Commission.

Those who take an active interest in the contest to open up the Western district collectorship, 13 is frequently said that few office holders die and none resign, but while realizing the axiomatic force of this remark it nevertheless seems true that such a thing as the voluntary relinquishment of a seat with the Federal planter is possible. It is now declared that Collector Harkins, District Attorney Holton and Marshall Milliken, all members of the Big Six, expressed their willingness to retire from service without the least show of contest, if this was to be the policy of the National Administration, and the State organization. Collector Harkins, it is said several times showed a disposition to resign, but each time Mr. Overman asked that no immediate action be taken for the reason, it is said, that the State chairman did not want the State chairman until after the disposition of the contest over the Asheville post office. Now Collector Harkins, so the story goes, has notified the State chairman that he does not wish to resign after the first of June. Other appointments are being held in abeyance until after the cases pending in the Greensboro Federal Court shall have been disposed of, but there is nothing to prevent an immediate inauguration of the collectorship contest.

The situation at Asheville is made doubly interesting by the appointment of Prof. Britt as special assistant district attorney, especially as there is much talk of the effect that the Department of Justice may find permanent employment for the Buncombe man. Prof. Britt's name was heard in connection with the collectorship gossip with much frequency, and his removal from the patronage equation leaves the Asheville job open to W. B. Logan, of West Asheville, has a goodly number of endorsements for the place, while others take the view that much party good would be accomplished by the appointment of C. J. Harris, of Asheville, who at the last election made the grade for Governor for the Republicans. It is not known whether Mr. Harris would consent to do so, but it is realized that he would make a formidable candidate should he enter the lists. The appointment of Prof. Britt is, however, it is assumed, result in keeping the office at Asheville, and this phase of the matter will be constantly kept in mind by the people generally of the tent district.

At least the Tar Heel is taking an active part in the Indian appropriation bill which has been introduced by Representative Curtis, who is looking after all the legislative affairs relating to the Indian Territory. That person is M. L. Mott, who was a long time ago appointed attorney for the Creek Indians, but whose salary has since his appointment been tied up by litigation of one sort or another. The bill in question authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to liquidate this item, and it now seems probable that Mott will get some money within the next three months.

In looking over the Blue Book which contains the names of all those employed here in the classified service, it was ascertained that 374 Tar Heels are employed here in the Washington departments, and that they draw annually from Uncle Sam's treasury \$262,964. The civil service commission has contended that North Carolina and other Southern States are getting a square deal in the matter of appointments, but if you consult the Blue Book, to determine the actual number of persons employed, it will be found that the Southern States are very far short in the apportionment.

Since the first announcement that President Roosevelt had given a personal friend the position of present agent to the canal commission at a salary of \$10,000, there has been much speculation as to the exact number of people employed in various capacities under the commission, and as the amount they are receiving. To the end that the country may have this information, Senator Simmons will Monday introduce a resolution calling for this information.

SCUTTLED SHIP IN REVENGE. Holes Bored in Bottom of Norwegian Vessel by Members of Crew Near Savannah, Causing it to Settle on Mud Bank—Search for Males.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 6.—Revengeful at being placed in nois by the captain of the Norwegian ship Regent, by cutting the holes in the bottom of the vessel, several members of the crew, after being liberated, scuttled the craft by boring holes in the bottom of the vessel.

The men, after arranging to send the ship to the bottom, deserted. The authorities here have been searching for them, as they are known to have come here after leaving the ship.

Immigrant Inspector Curry and the New York consul, J. J. Evans, are carrying on a vigorous search for the men.

The owners of the ship have been cabled and have arranged for the raising of the ship off the mud bank where it settled.

The men are charged with the murder of the crew.

ADMITTS PUBLIC ROAD KILLING. Three Negroes, Principal and Alleged Accessories, Jailed for Death of President Farmer.

Millersville, Ga., Jan. 6.—The murder of a young man has been arrested and is in jail for killing G. W. Meadows, a prominent farmer and merchant, who was found with a bullet wound in his chest.

The man is charged with the murder of Meadows.