

THE OBSERVER'S BIG LOSS

AFTERMATH OF FIERCE FIRE

The Observer Printing House Sustains the Heaviest Loss While the Newspaper Gets On Light—Two Floors, the Composing Room and the Bindery of the Printing House, Are Hit Hard—One Linotype Machine Ruined and Several Job Presses—The Origin of the Fire May Remain a Mystery—When All Is Told the Damage Will Approach \$25,000—The Sad Story of George Wilson—Observer Men Bury Him.

After the flames had died out and the smoke cleared, yesterday morning, those interested in the Observer discovered that the loss occasioned by the terrific fire of the night before had done damage to the amount of about \$25,000.

In order to understand the scope of the fire one must know something of the mechanical department of the Observer which is in the rear section of the Observer Building. In the basement is the press, engine and mailing room; on the first floor the stock rooms, the business office and cylinder press room of the Observer Printing House; the second floor, the composing room of the Observer and the Chronicle and offices of staff members and telegraph office; the third floor, the composing room and the platen press room of the Printing House, and the fourth floor the bindery.

The fire originated in the matrix store room on the third floor and gutted that floor and the one above. In accomplishing this the fire did not burn through the floor of the fourth story, but broke out of the windows of the third floor and licked back through the ones of the fourth floor and entered there to rage fiercer than it had done in the room below.

This was a peculiar freak of the fire. The composing room and bindery are wrecked. All of the material used there by the Printing House was ruined, including a \$4,000 Mergenthaler Linotype machine and four platen presses.

THE NEWSPAPER OUTFIT NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. The newspaper mechanical appliances located on the second floor, and the machinery in the press room, located in the basement, were not damaged materially except by water.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE. The origin of the fire will ever remain a mystery. Mr. Richard I. Allen, foreman of the Observer composing room, Mr. Walter Adams, manager of the type case, and Mr. Adams left the composing room about 1:20 o'clock, and when he opened the door to the matrix room, he discovered a burning fire in one of the boxes.

THE BURNING OF GEORGE WILSON. The burning to death of the deaf and dumb boy, who had voluntarily taken up at the Observer office, is one of the saddest incidents in the history of the paper. The poor fellow could neither hear the roar of the fire that started in the opposite end of the room nor cry for help when he waked to face the angry flames and battle with the boiling smoke.

THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING BOY. Immediately after the fire broke out and cut the electric light wires the boys who knew the lad's weakness began to inquire if any one had seen him since dark.

TENANT KILLS LANDLORD

SHOOTS HIM WITHOUT CAUSE

Nathan Donathan, a Man of Bad Temper, When Remonstrated With by His Landlord, John Eads, Regarding Some Chickens, Shoots Him to Death With Shot Gun and Then Beats Out His Brains With the Stock of the Weapon—Tragedy Occurred in Remote Section of Surry County Saturday—Eads Was Entirely Unarmed—Donathan in Jail at Dobson.

Winston-Salem, Sept. 9.—Because he remonstrated with him about raising chickens unless he kept them cooped, Mr. John Eads, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Sham, Surry county, was shot and killed by one of his tenants, Nathan Donathan, Saturday evening. The news of the horrible and inexcusable homicide was received here to-day from parties coming in from Surry county.

It appears from what could be learned that when Donathan moved on Eads' place it was with the understanding that he was not to raise any chickens unless he kept them cooped. Donathan disregarded this and the chickens straggled about where they pleased and began to interfere with Eads' work.

Saturday evening Mr. Eads went over to Donathan's house to remonstrate with him about the chickens. Donathan became very angry and cursed Eads. Hot words were exchanged between the two men, and Donathan returned to the house and got his gun. In his haste he did not examine the gun to see whether or not it was loaded.

CLARDY WAIVES HEARING. Charlotte's Late Sanitary Officer Remonstrated to Greenville, S. C., Jail—Able to Give Evidence and No Fear of Conviction is Entertained. Special to the Observer.

Greenville, S. C., Sept. 9.—W. R. Clardy, late chief sanitary inspector of Charlotte, N. C., who is held here on a charge of forcing a man to submit to a medical and dental examination for the purpose of stealing diamonds to the amount of \$100 and a small amount of money, waived the right of a preliminary hearing here to-day before Judge Bradley and was remanded to jail.

Strike at Chattanooga. Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 9.—The contractors at Elbas bar lock and dam power plant to-day discharged a white electric hoister and put a negro in his place, and, as a result, 34 white workmen struck. One hundred Italians on the same works struck a few days ago.

CHARLES BROCKMAN THE MAN. Greensboro Merchants Announce Name of Their New Secretary—Was Formerly With Association. Special to the Observer.

Greensboro, Sept. 9.—The Retail Merchants' Association of Greensboro has just announced as its permanent secretary Mr. Charles R. Brockman. Mr. Brockman will enter upon the duties of his office on Monday and will leave in the morning for Richmond, where he will stay a while studying the rating system in practice there with a view to establishing a somewhat similar one here.

AMOUNT OF COTTON GINNED. George the Only State That Has Ginned as Much This Year as Last—Only Forty-Five Bales in North Carolina. Observer Bureau.

Spencer Man Attends Meeting of Merchants. Spencer, Sept. 9.—The annual convention of the Grand Lodge International Association of Machinists convened in St. Louis to-day for a ten-day session. The convention is composed of about 500 delegates from every State in the Union and the president is James O'Connell, of Washington, D. C.

Sudden Death of J. W. Nichols. Hickory, Sept. 9.—The sudden death occurring here this morning of J. W. Nichols, a prominent member of the Hickory police force, in which capacity he served the city for a number of years. After the funeral services the remains will be buried in the cemetery to-morrow noon.

THREE DIE IN HOTEL FIRE

NOTED SUMMER RESORT BURNS

Cleveland Springs Hotel, Near Shelby, Set on Fire by Lightning—Three Women Being Roasted Alive—The Case of Miss Cora Smith, of Ellenboro, For Some One to Save Her, Heart-Rendering—Two Hotel Servants Asleep in Attic, Also Perish—A Property Loss of About \$25,000, Partly Insured—Guests Escape With Only Bare Night Garments on, Much Consternation Prevailing. Special to the Observer.

Shelby, Sept. 9.—Shut in their rooms, with no possible avenue of escape, and roasted to death was the awful fate of three women, one white and two colored, at Cleveland Springs Hotel, a few miles from here, at an early hour this morning. Those who perished were:

MISS CORA SMITH, a young lady of Ellenboro, Rutherford county. MARY FRAZIER, a colored chambermaid, of South Carolina. ANNIE FRAZIER, her sister, also a chambermaid.

Miss Smith was sleeping on the third floor and before she was awakened the flames had hemmed her in beyond any possible manner of escape. She cried most piteously to be rescued, but the anxious spectators stood by horror-stricken, entirely unable to render her any assistance. Her body, charred almost beyond recognition, was found in the debris of the building.

The two chambermaids were sleeping in the attic of the hotel and, like Miss Smith, were overtaken by the flames before they could flee from the building. The fire originated in the kitchen part of the hotel during a severe electric storm and is supposed to have caught from a lightning stroke. The building burned like dry shavings and the guests were aroused just in time to escape in their night clothes, almost no personal effects being saved.

SHERIFF ARRESTS BAD NEGRO. He is Wanted in Georgia For Murder—Movement Gained For a New Cotton Mill, Gaffney's Sixth—Brief News to the Observer. Special to the Observer.

Gaffney, S. C., Sept. 9.—Sheriff Thomas Saturday morning captured a negro named Walter Jordan, who is wanted in Georgia for murder. Jordan was arrested at Gaffney, S. C., on July 15th, 1905, and has been at large since that time.

THE FIGHT BY ROUNDS. Britt and Gans entered the ring at 3:20 p. m. The final betting was 2 to 1 on Gans. The two fighters had weighed at 140 p. m. The scales were set at 140 pounds.

CONTRACT FOR MILL LET. Ordway & Co., of Winston-Salem, Will Build the Dam and Building of the Turner Cotton Mill at Statesville—Two Mills to Use One Dam. Special to the Observer.

SIX WEEKS' COURT TERM. Several New Teachers at Bingham School—Price of Transfer Raised—Ashville Regrets the Observer Fire. Special to the Observer.

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THE ROBBERIES CONTINUE.

Mysterious Police Learn of More of the Mysterious Work—Pretty Woman Suspected—Very Valuable Ring Recovered by Negro Detective's Work.

Ashville, Sept. 9.—The police of the city are up against another mysterious robbery at one of the local family hotels. Although the millions of the law are indisposed to discuss the robbery or give out anything in connection with it, the rumors that during the past week jewelry and other valuables to the amount of about \$1,000 have been stolen from guests and that a suspect has been in the "sweet box" over the affair, are being spread by a young, very pleasing appearance. It is also known that the officers have a fairly well-connected chain of circumstantial evidence, but the fact also remains that the stolen property has not been recovered. Rings and other pieces of valuable jewelry were among the items taken.

Incidentally one robbery that occurred at another hotel here a week or 10 days ago was solved by George Greenlee, a local negro detective, Saturday night. The property stolen was a valuable ring belonging to the daughter of William Magill, of St. Louis. The ring contained a very handsome pearl and 12 diamonds. It was valued at \$150 and was stolen when the Magills were at the hotel Saturday night. Greenlee espied the ring dangling from the cravat of a local negro named Jasper Sims. Greenlee simply reached up and promptly relieved Jasper of the "sparkler." The negro almost wept with joy when he learned that the ring had been stolen. He explained with a degree of promptness that indicated he had vision of the chain-gang. Jasper alleged that there was a woman in the case, that the woman had taken the ring and given it to him. It was learned that this was really the case; that the negro did not know the property was stolen. Jasper had been wearing the ring as a sort of scarf pin for several days and had loaned it to other negroes. The woman who stole the ring has since been traced to the city of St. Louis. She is a woman of the name of "the racket one" in the eyes of the woman who robbed the St. Louis lady and that after stealing the jewel she presented it to Jasper. Greenlee will get a reward of \$50 for the recovery of the property.

"UTTERLY HELPLESS." "I was utterly helpless," he said. "I couldn't even hold up my left hand after I broke it. I had to guard for Gans' left and had no punch except with my right."

A VICIOUS FIGHT. The second round developed a mixture of the ropes in which both men exchanged vicious rights and lefts. Gans taking the advantage. In the third, Gans followed his tactics of crowding Britt into a corner, and the California had his hands and feet busy working his way out. The round was even.

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GANS WINS IN THE FOURTH

ARM BROKEN, BRITT'S HELPLESS.

Negro Fugitive Captures the Light-Weight Championship of the World at San Francisco in a Short, But Decisive Battle—The Fight a Slugging Match From the Beginning, and to the Observers it Was Apparent That the White Man Had No Chance to Win—The Second Round Violent and Gans Draws First Blood in the Fourth—Decisive Blow Caught by Britt on the Elbow and the Blow Put Him Out of the Game.

San Francisco, Sept. 9.—A left swing to the body, cleverly blocked by Joe Gans, cost Jimmy Britt any chance he might have had to win the lightweight championship of the world to-day and brought to a close five rounds of fast fighting before 14,000 persons at Recreation Park.

"What's the use of my going on? I can't fight. I am helpless." Britt cried to Ty Krelling, Captain of the Glasgow, who was in the ring, and he stopped the fight. Referee Welch gave the decision to Gans. Three doctors, after an examination, announced that the injury was a fracture and dislocation of the left hand. Whether it was a genuine fracture or not, Britt showed such intense suffering while the doctors were manipulating his wrist, that the tears rolled down his cheeks.

"I was utterly helpless," he said. "I couldn't even hold up my left hand after I broke it. I had to guard for Gans' left and had no punch except with my right."

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NO KICK MADE ON BATES

TESTIMONY OF MR. HARDWICK

So Far as the Southern Railway Know North Carolina Patrons Were Satisfied With the Passenger Rates, Says Passenger Traffic Manager of the South—Greater Part of the Day Continued in the Continuation of the Evidence of Freight Traffic Manager Green—No Time to Cross-Examine Mr. Hardwick—Southern Shows That Virginia Rates Could Not Have Been Influenced.

Washington, Sept. 9.—No requests were made by the patrons of the Southern Railway in North Carolina for lower passenger rates, and no representations that the rates were too high were made by the North Carolina railway commission, according to the testimony to-day of S. H. Hardwick, passenger traffic manager of the Southern Railway, in the investigation being made before Judge Montgomery, special master, taking evidence for Judge Pritchard, of the United States Circuit Court. If any such applications had been made Mr. Hardwick said he would have known about them for it is his business to see that the patrons of the line are satisfied with the charges for passenger transportation. Mr. Hardwick then testified concerning the additions that have been made from time to time in the train service in North Carolina. He said also that the road never receives as an average of its revenues from the passenger traffic the maximum allowed for the various classes of business. As an example of this he said the road carries about 50,000 or 60,000 tourists every year during the summer and winter tourists seasons and special rates are made in such cases.

CROSS-EXAMINATION DEFERRED. Mr. Hardwick was not called to the stand until near the close of the day's session and there was no opportunity for counsel for the State to cross-examine him to-day. Most of the day was consumed by the continuation of the testimony of S. H. Green, freight traffic manager, who was questioned extensively concerning matters that require consultation of the books in order to make an answer. He was questioned regarding alleged discriminations in favor of Virginia points on certain classes of freight business.

General Counsel Thom examined the witness later and showed that the lines running north and south, such as the Southern Railway and the Atlantic Coast Line are operating under the southern classification of rates and the east and west lines, such as the Norfolk & Western and the Chesapeake & Ohio operate under the official classification. The conclusion drawn was that this makes it impossible for the Southern to influence the rates to Virginia points.

FIVE LIVES IMPERILED. Falling Balcony of Hotel Precipitates Four Young Women and Men to Ground, the Debris Nearly Catching an Invalid on the Sidewalk. Special to the Observer.

Black Mountain, Sept. 9.—An accident occurred here about 10 o'clock Saturday night by which four young people came near losing their lives. Two young men, Bascom Burnett and Zeb Switte, and two young ladies, Misses Lettie Buchanan and Mary Jamison, were sitting on the balcony of the McCoy Building, occupied as a store and hotel, when part of the balcony gave way and crashed down upon the sidewalk, which it overhung. The young people were precipitated to the ground, together with the wreckage, and both young men were seriously, although not fatally hurt. The young ladies escaped with slight injuries, but were badly shocked and bruised.

ABLE COUNSEL EMPLOYED. Father of Slain Ed Edwards Retains Ex-Judge Charles A. Moore to Aid in Prosecution of Hugh Postell. Special to the Observer.

Ashville, Sept. 9.—Jerome Edwards, of High Point, father of Ed Edwards, who was slain here in cold blood ten days ago by Hugh Postell, has been in the city for the past several days and has secured counsel to represent the private prosecution of Postell when the accused is brought to trial. Mr. Edwards said that he did not want to prosecute Postell from a spirit of personal vengeance, but that he felt the state should be satisfied to be punished to the full extent of the law and that he had therefore secured counsel. Ex-Judge Charles A. Moore, one of the leading lawyers of the city, has been retained by Mr. Edwards. As an act of precaution the Governor had the Orangeburg dispensaries closed to-day. Franklin narrowly escaped lynching immediately after the killing. Mobs chased him several days, but the sheriff's deputies picked him up ahead of the mob and brought him to Columbia for safe keeping. Franklin's wife was tried with him as an accomplice, but was acquitted. Valentine was shot down when he entered Franklin's cabin to arrest him.

In the circuit court this afternoon W. E. Hendrix, a young machinist, was convicted of bigamy. The two wives, No. 1, formerly Mrs. Annie Moore, of Atlanta, and No. 2, Miss Lettie Hyman, of this city, whose father is prosecutor, sat through the trial holding hands. Hendrix's defense was a letter received just before his second marriage and purporting to come from a relative of wife No. 1, announcing her death. The judge announced this letter, even if genuine, no excuse.

Claiming they had been accused of falsehood by an employe of the office three lady clerks at the Western Union office walked out to-day demanding that the manager, Gray, should be removed. The ladies had been misunderstood by the ladies. The striking ladies are Mrs. Tom Ryan, Miss Annie Wavra and Miss Annie Goodson.

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STATE CAPITAL DOINGS

ROWDY NEGROES ON TRAIN

Passengers on Raleigh & Pamlico Railway Have Their Lives Endangered by Negro's Reckless Handling of a Pistol—Police Officer Barely Escapes Being Shot—W. M. Russ a Congressional Candidate—Supreme Court Renders Opinion To-Day—Raleigh to Have the Manufacturing—Cabarrus Warehouse Company Gets Charter—Great Demand For Brick. Observer Bureau.

To-day Guilford Todd and George Debnam, negroes, were brought here and jailed for making a disturbance Saturday evening on the Raleigh & Pamlico Railway near here. When the train was near Wendell Todd went in the car for whites, took a seat and when told to leave drew a revolver and began firing right and left, driving the conductor out and knocking down a couple of ladies as he ran about with his pistol. Debnam aided him. When they reached Wendell Police Officer Charles Franks attempted to arrest Todd, who drew his pistol and in an instant would have killed the officer had not a bystander named Honeycutt knocked up the pistol. Then the men were overpowered.

Saturday night a negro named Mial came here from Norfolk to see a woman whom he had recently married. He has two wives and wife No. 1 was "laying" for him. To-day she had him arrested and he was sent to jail for bigamy.

Clerk of Superior Court William M. Russ, one of the biggest and fullest officials in North Carolina, is in the race for Congress in this district and said to-day he was in to stay. The prohibition people say they are not to be put aside in regard to the election. Another prohibition or temperance meeting will be held during Christmas week, in accordance with their first request.

At the new suburb at Glenwood, in the northern part of the city, twenty-six houses are in course of erection, to cost \$50,000. WAREHOUSE COMPANY CHARTERED. A charter is granted the Cabarrus County Warehouse Company, mainly to store cotton, its warehouse to be at Coffey. The capital stock is \$100,000 and John C. Allison and others are the stockholders. State Auditor Dixon went to Nashville to-day to speak at a large educational rally and a picnic there to-morrow.

New lodges of Odd Fellows have been established at Raleigh, at Wendell-Zebulon, both in this county. TILE FACTORY. A manufactory has been established at Raleigh of fine tiles, and it is intended to go into art work along this line. The brick business has been more important here this summer than ever before. The penitentiary has a large plant and so has the Carolina Press Brick Company, and the Johnston Brick Company. The output has been heavy at all these plants, and much new machinery has been installed. Another plant is being made brick at the copper mine property on the Raleigh & Southport Railway, a few miles south of here. The demand for all kinds of building material was never so great as at present.

The Supreme Court devotes this week to appeals from the third district. Opinions will be filed to-morrow. One week from to-morrow there will be argument in the very notable \$10,000 fine case against the Southern Railway. Ex-Governor Aycock has been devoting his time to the very careful preparation of this case for the State.

CONVICTED OF MURDER. Negro Who Killed Constable Valentine to Be Hanged October 20th—Young Man Convicted of Bigamy—Young Lady Telegraph Operator Struck. Observer Bureau.

1422 Main Street. Columbia, S. C., Sept. 9. A long distance phone message from Orangeburg this evening informs the Governor that the negro Franklin on trial to-day for the murder of Constable Valentine was promptly convicted and sentenced to hang October 20th. As an act of precaution the Governor had the Orangeburg dispensaries closed to-day. Franklin narrowly escaped lynching immediately after the killing. Mobs chased him several days, but the sheriff's deputies picked him up ahead of the mob and brought him to Columbia for safe keeping. Franklin's wife was tried with him as an accomplice, but was acquitted. Valentine was shot down when he entered Franklin's cabin to arrest him.

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