

YOUNG LADY DISAPPEARS

MISS MATTIE HAVIS MISSING

Miss Mattie Havis, stenographer for the Charlotte Supply Company, suddenly disappeared from the home of her sister, Mrs. W. W. McDonald, on North Brevard street, and only clue to her whereabouts is the fact that she went to Spartanburg, S. C., to visit a friend on the train that she would return last night. No explanation could be given for her disappearance. The young woman has long been regarded as being a little peculiar.

One of the most puzzling mysteries that ever afflicted a Charlotte family held that of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McDonald in its grasp yesterday. Miss Mattie L. Havis, Mrs. McDonald's sister, suddenly disappeared from her home at No. 206 North Brevard street early yesterday morning and up to a late hour last night had not been seen although traced as far as Spartanburg, S. C. Without notifying any of her relatives or giving the slightest intimation of her purpose, she slipped away and boarded Southern passenger train No. 39 which left the city for the south at 7:15 o'clock. To a friend who was on the same train and who sat in the seat with her, she stated that she was going to a place below Spartanburg and that she would have to change cars there. She gave him to understand that she would return to Charlotte last night. This young man returned from Gaffney, S. C., his destination, early last evening, and told of having seen and talked with Miss Havis on the morning train. He thought that she was going on a short visit to friends.

A POPULAR YOUNG LADY.

Miss Havis was employed as a stenographer in the office of the Charlotte Supply Company, but had been working there but a short time. She had previously worked in other offices in the city for more than a year. Her home was in Vicksburg, Miss., although she had been living with her sister, Mrs. McDonald, for the past 18 months. She was perhaps 18 years of age and a lovely young lady. It is needless to add that her strange disappearance has occasioned the greatest apprehension to Mr. and Mrs. McDonald and to all of her friends. Not one of them could advance any reason for her act and to all the mystery became more and more profound as the investigation proceeded.

Miss Havis was last seen by Mrs. McDonald late Thursday night. She seemed to be in the best of health and was as lively and gay as usual. Seemingly there was nothing wrong anywhere. She gave no one any idea that she was the least bit troubled nor did she say anything about any trip or visit to friends. Yesterday morning when she did not come down to breakfast, Mrs. McDonald, thinking perhaps she had overslept herself, went in to arouse her. There was no one in the room. Alarmed, Mrs. McDonald at once called on her neighbors for help. She immediately made inquiries to find out whether or not her sister had gone out for an early morning walk or whether she had already started to her duties up-stair. For a time she could learn nothing. One of Mr. M. M. Wallace's clerks stated that he had seen the missing young lady walking down Brevard street and on into East avenue as if on her way into the business section of the city. Not being able to gain any further information the police were notified. The search then commenced in earnest. The next news was that Miss Havis had boarded a Southern passenger train en route south, and that she had gone to Spartanburg. A fuller investigation disclosed the fact that this was true for she had been seen by several people at the station.

AN INEXPLICABLE MYSTERY.

The young man who sat on the same seat in the train with Miss Havis yesterday morning returned to the city last night and gave further details regarding her trip. Other than that she was going to a point below Spartanburg and that she would have to change cars there, nothing definite is known. To make the mystery more inexplicable it develops that Miss Havis as far as her relatives and friends in Charlotte know, has no friends anywhere in that section of South Carolina and they are at a loss to know why she should have left home, work and friends without ceremony or a word of warning. She could hardly be on her way to her old home in Mississippi for she would have made some provision for the trip. If that had been her purpose in mind, she would not have purchased a ticket to a small place in South Carolina nor would she have said that she expected to return last night. The mystery is one that is inexplicable with only the facts at hand last night to go upon. A determined effort will be made this morning to ferret out the affair and something definite is expected. Some of Miss Havis' acquaintances considered her a little peculiar, but this could hardly have any bearing on the case in question. Unquestionably there is some reason for her disappearance, (she conversed in the most natural and unassuming manner with her friends on the train) and all the cloud will be cleared away as soon as she can be reached either in person, by wire or by telephone.

Georgia Negro Farmer Being in First Place of New Crop.

Albany, Ga., July 17.—In spite of his own prediction made several months ago that adverse weather conditions had ruined his first bale prospects for this season, Deal L. Jackson, Dougherty county's well-known negro farmer, brought in the first bale of 1908 cotton this afternoon. He beats last year's record by two days. Deal Jackson has been the first "bale" farmer of Georgia for 12 or 13 years and during that time has not lost his title for even one season.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

IT EMANATES FROM FAIRVIEW

Democratic Candidates For Presidency and Vice Presidency Issue a Statement Addressed to the Farmers of the Country, Declaring That Now is the Time For Farmers to Organize to Manifest the Faith That is in Them.—First Contribution to the Campaign Fund Received From an Iowa Farmer.—If the Contributions Are Above \$100,000, the Candidates Will Not Be Held Until Some Time Next Week, the District Attorney Being Desirous of Getting Hold of Some Tangible Evidence.

VISITORS LESS NUMEROUS.

Visitors to the Bryan home were less numerous to-day than yesterday. The principal callers were John E. Lamb, of Indiana, who declined to make any statement as to the subject of his conversation. To-night Mr. Bryan went into Lincoln to attend a social meeting. The principal callers who received at his home a large delegation from the local Central Labor Union.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

To the Farmers of the United States: The first contribution made to the Democratic campaign fund this year, so far as we know, was made by a Iowa farmer. Just before the Denver convention met, this man, who modestly prefers not to have his name mentioned, journeyed more than 100 miles to Lincoln with a contribution of \$100, which he left with Mr. Bryan to be given to the committee when organized, for the campaign. This farmer was born in Sweden and for some time after he was naturalized, was a member of the Republican party. But he was a student of public questions and in the course of time became a Democrat. To manifest his faith in the success of the party and in the triumph of Democratic principles he made this free will offering to the campaign fund.

APPEAL TO FARMERS.

It is very appropriate that this first contribution should come from that great body of our population known as agriculturists. The farmer has nothing to gain by privilege and favoritism; his hope is in the application of the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. He has been the victim of all special legislation and has suffered from control of politics by the great predatory corporations. Now that the Democratic party has announced its determination not to accept contributions from corporations and not to accept excessive contributions even from individuals, and to make the farmer the basis of success, a reasonable minimum, it ought to be able to secure a sufficient sum from the citizens who ask from the government nothing but protection of their rights and consideration for the general welfare. There are hundreds of thousands of farmers who are abundantly able to contribute to the campaign fund. There are thousands who could give \$100 apiece without sacrifice and there are tens of thousands who could give \$50 apiece without sacrifice and still more who could give \$25 or \$10 or \$5. As the national committee has not been organized, will you ask the Committee for contributions to this farmer's fund. Those giving may indicate whether they are willing to have their names mentioned and if the contribution is not more than \$100, their names will be compiled with all contributions above \$100 must be made known no matter from whom they come.

WHO WILL BE FIRST?

The farmers fund will be turned over to the national committee as soon as its permanent officers have been selected. The donor will be the first to register. The Denver convention was a people's convention; it adopted a strong, clear, honest platform and its nominations were made with practical unanimity. Our fight is a fight for the whole people. Our aim is equal rights and justice to all; our purpose is to restore the government to the hands of freely chosen representatives of the voters. How many farmers will join in furnishing the fund necessary to present the issue?

WIFE KILLS GAY HUSBAND.

Detecting Him in the Attempt to Assault Servant Girl Florida Woman Shoots Unfaithful Spouse Five Times, Killing Him. Tampa, Fla., July 17.—Luke Palmer, a well-known sporting man, was shot and killed by his wife in an attempt to assault a servant girl in a suburb. At the time of the shooting Palmer was attempting to assault Mollie Powers, 13 years old, a white girl employed in the house as a domestic. Hearing a noise Palmer came to a door of the bedroom and his wife fired the first shot, Palmer retreating into the room. His wife then went into the bedroom and fired four more shots, each taking effect. Palmer died ten minutes later. The girl said Palmer had made an attempt to assault her twice before. The wife called on the officer and gave herself up. Palmer has been conspicuous in gambling and horse racing circles.

Man and Wife Held For Murder by Virginia Grand Jury.

Roanoke, Va., July 17.—At a preliminary hearing at Pocahontas last night Arthur Turner and his wife were sent on to the grand jury to answer for the murder of Mrs. Edna Read, an aged woman who was murdered in her mountain home near Pocahontas two years ago. Shortly after the killing Benjamin Read, a brother of the slain woman, was arrested charged with the crime, but for lack of evidence was released.

MAY NEVER LIFT VEIL

DREW CASE AT A STANDSTILL

Though Theories and Suggestions Are Numerous the Troy Authorities Have Learned Nothing That Will Warrant Them in Making an Arrangement to Be Held Until Some Time Next Week, the District Attorney Being Desirous of Getting Hold of Some Tangible Evidence. Troy, N. Y., July 17.—The impenetrable veil of mystery which lies behind the secret of the slayer of Hazel Drew, and the story of the tragedy of the abandoned mill pond, may never be lifted. Somewhere, possibly among the charcoal burners in the hills beyond Taborton on one of the farms in the vicinity or perhaps in the city of Troy, the perpetrator of the crime may be mingling with those who are endeavoring to bring him to justice. So baffling is the mystery that after almost a week of careful inquiry along the paths which might lead to its solution, the investigation has come almost to a standstill. Where Hazel was on the night of July 6th and until she was seen on the lonely road leading to Taborton the following evening when she is supposed to have met her death, is a problem that the authorities have yet to solve. This accomplished, the motive and the murder, remain to be accounted for. Murder, accident and suicide theories abound, but facts are few. Even the reward of \$1,000, which the county has offered as an incentive to further activities in the case, has not served to bring out anything of a helpful character. Letters are beginning to reach the hands of District Attorney O'Brien containing suggestions. Some give names of those whom it is said may know something about the case. A few received to-day were unsigned. Nowhere has it been shown that Hazel had a real love affair. While on her trip to New York with Carrie Weaver, they had no male companions, according to Miss Weaver. They sought the shelter of the Young Women's Christian Association for the night spent in the metropolis. No arrests are likely to be made for some time as nothing has developed, the officials say that would warrant them in taking any one into custody. District Attorney O'Brien said to-night that the inquiry will not be held before next week. The district attorney is not satisfied with the information in hand and wants to make further investigation.

ALABAMA SITUATION ALARMING

Governor Comer Traverses the Strike District in an Automobile and Later Orders the Militia to Hold Ready in Readiness For a Call—Strike Sympathizers and Deputies Get Together—Troops Ordered to the Scene of the Conflict. Birmingham, Ala., July 17.—While the reports concerning the strike situation are being greatly exaggerated, there is an ancient cause for alarm to induce Governor Comer to order the military of the district to sleep on their arms to-night and remain in readiness for an emergency call. To-day Governor Comer together with Sheriff Higdon and a number of deputies made an automobile tour of the strike district. So impressed was the Governor with the seriousness of the situation that on returning to Birmingham three local companies of militia were ordered under arms. At the present time, a mixed company, numbering 100 men, is en route to Adamsville, where this afternoon there took place an engagement between strike sympathizers and deputies. No authentic report concerning the result of this engagement has reached the city; as it is known that one deputy is dead, others wounded, and that many strike sympathizers have been arrested. News of this engagement was followed by the mobilization of troops, which are now en route to Adamsville with Major Ledbetter in charge. Troop D, ordered to the scene. Montgomery, Ala., July 17.—Troop D of the First Cavalry, Alabama, participating in the practice shoot, received orders this afternoon to report in Birmingham to Sheriff Higdon to-morrow.

BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW.

Mid-Summer Quiet Characterizes Trade Generally, But Good Crop Conditions Favor Things Moving Forward With Confidence—More Life in Building Activity. New York, July 17.—Bradstreet's to-morrow will say: Trade and industry are still in a condition of mid-summer quiet with preparations for fall trade, stimulated by generally good crop progress, going forward with confidence, but with conservatism ruling operations, pending clearer views of ultimate crop and political results. Activity in retail trade is centered in the disposal of surplus stocks of summer goods at concessions but reduced public buying ability is retarded in reports from some centers of slow progress in clearing shelves of goods. Jobbing activity is still mainly confined to filling small but frequently repeated orders for summer fabrics, though a few Southern and Northwestern points report enlargement of takings for fall. Wholesale trade is preparing for future requirements, but primary factors of production are running within normal, and curtailed outputs are still a feature in most lines of industry. There is a little more life in building lines principally South and West and yellow pine is firmer with optimistic predictions from Southern and Pacific Northwestern lumbermen. Business failures for the week in the United States ending July 15th number 258, which compares with 246 last week, 177 in the like week of 1907, 188 in 1906, 166 in 1905 and 199 in 1904.

Haywood's Teachers' Institute Closes.

Waynesville, July 17.—The teachers' institute that has been in session here for the past two weeks came to an end to-day. Prof. W. D. Carmichael, of Durham, who has been in charge, closed his work this morning and the examinations for teachers' certificates began. These examinations will close to-morrow. Professor Carmichael has impressed himself upon the teachers of Haywood county and during the time he has been here he has given them much food for thought. The teachers in a series of resolutions to-day expressed their appreciation of his labors.

CONFERENCE'S SECOND DAY.

Charlotte District Methodists Have Rather Lively Session—License to Preach Granted Four Applicants, One Being a Charlotte Broker. Next Session to Be Held at Belmont Park Church—Laymen's Movement Takes Prominent Place. Special to The Observer.

Wadeboro, July 17.—The morning train brought in more delegates to attend the Charlotte district conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The second session opened the second day. The pastors made brief reports from the churches having "living link" connection with the mission fields. The attendance is above the expectation of those people and the programme was especially interesting. Rev. C. M. Pickens opened the general discussion of the topic, missions, with a carefully prepared address on the subject, "The Young People's Movement in the Methodist Church." The importance of the better trained and developed young people, especially in knowledge of missionary plan and work, was stressed.

The sermon of last night is the topic of conversation to-day. The preacher was Rev. E. L. Bain, pastor of Trinity church, Charlotte, and his theme was "The Dangers to Our Civilization." It was a magnificent appeal to the Christian world to recognize the dangers and perils of to-day and remember their duty. The words of Christ, "Ye are the light of the world," was the text chosen and the subject, was handled in a masterly manner.

The afternoon session was given to the discussion largely of the laymen's movement. J. B. Ivey, of Charlotte, district leader, occupied the chair, and he very deftly delivered a number of laymen and wives. The laymen decided to raise the offering to foreign missions from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and pledges were taken covering this amount. Resolutions were adopted pledging the churches to make similar advances for other benevolent causes.

License to preach were granted to G. C. Brinkman, of Charlotte; John A. Starnes, of Salisbury; W. F. Starnes and M. A. Osborne, G. C. Brinkman, who was recommended to the annual conference to be admitted to trial, is a broker of Charlotte and he is gathering up his business and enter the active ministry. The next annual session of the conference will be held with Belmont Park church, Charlotte. J. B. Ivey insisted that the report was in accordance with the facts but was willing to abide by the instructions of the conference.

The session to-night was in the interest of the laymen's movement and addresses were delivered by C. W. Tillet and R. L. Harding, of Charlotte. The house would not hold the people who gathered to hear these distinguished speakers. The report was given much impetus by reason of their splendid addresses.

MANY DEMOCRATS FOR TAFT.

The Republican Presidential Nominée Deluged With Personal Correspondence, a Feature of Which is the Assurance of the Support of Many Democrats Who Declare They Will Not Vote For Bryan.—Several Southern States Can Be Carried For Him. Hot Springs, Va., July 17.—Judge William H. Taft's mail continues to increase so that it is daily making greater demands upon his time in attending to correspondence that must have his personal attention. One of the most interesting features of his mail is the many letters he is receiving from Democrats in all parts of the country declaring that they will vote and work for his election to the presidency in opposition to William J. Bryan. These Democrats express the greatest opposition to Mr. Bryan and many of them assert that after his second unsuccessful campaign for the presidency on the Democratic ticket they supposed he would no longer be put forward for that office. Correspondents from Maryland, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia declare their belief that the Republican ticket can be elected in those States.

While Mr. Taft reads the letters with interest he received information that the hope of carrying Georgia with a feeling that on the part of the writer the wish is father to the thought. Intense feeling against the policies of Hoke Smith in this State is looked upon as the foundation of the bitterness of Georgia Democrats toward the election of Bryan as they look upon Bryan and Smith as representing the same ideas. M. E. Ingalls, formerly president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, arrived here to-day and is occupying the cottage near the Homestead. He is almost constantly upon the golf links while here and to-day he and Judge Taft played against George Underhill and after giving them a handicap, came out even at the end of the match.

HITCHCOCK GOES WEST

THE EAST BEING NEGLECTED

For Once It Seems That Both the Democrats and Republicans Are Fighting For the Votes of the Pivotal States and Ignoring the Pivotal State of New York.—That Commonwealth Officially Marked—Revenue Man Knocked Down With Chair and Shots in Self-Defense—Ball Penetrated Swift's Body and Struck His Wife in Mouth—Everything Possible Done to Save Life of Wounded Man. Special to The Observer.

BY ZACH M'GHEE.

Observer Bureau, 12 Post Building, Washington, July 17. The Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock, former First Assistant Postmaster General and by that token termed "General" Hitchcock, who subsequently because of his marvelous marshaling of the imperial guard of Roosevelt, became known to the world as "Generalissimo" Hitchcock, now assigned to the command of the whole Republican army in the field; or in other words, placed in charge of the fixing of the fences of the G. O. P., has set out for the West. As already announced, he will hold conferences at Colorado Springs with the fence fixers of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and Kansas. This first move shows that the Republican chairman is on to his job, for he has cut out the "enemy's country." He carried only a brief spell in the East, spent several days with his big fat race-horse down at Hot Springs, then went to New York to open up a heretofore study of the money bags, came down here to Washington two days ago and left this morning to see what steps can be taken to put out the Bryan fire in the West.

This thing of the Democrats ignoring New York, New Jersey and the other doubtful States in the East to wage the war in the West has sort of non-plussed the G. O. P. The Republican leaders here do not know what to think about it. Such a thing has never before been heard of, and they are holding up their hands in front of their solar plexus in something like a "stare" from an unseen place. This Mr. Bryan has all of a sudden got shrewd, another hitherto unheard of and unsuspected thing. He has, moreover, held counsel with all the astute Democratic leaders, those who have been fighting him as well as his original friends. He is really going to neglect New York, he has something up his sleeve. So Mr. Hitchcock goes out to see about it. What is it? Think Mr. Hitchcock does not an idea what it is. He has sources of information from his own men. Information, inside, secret information, is this astute political general's address so far as he knows of the Chicago convention and here he left the Postoffice Department he had his force of feelers in the middle West organized and at work, and they have been telling him things which give him some of the information he needs. Finds an idea of what Mr. Bryan is thinking of. There is something doing out there, and if something isn't done, it will be somebody's undoing.

NEW YORK'S WRATH AROUSED.

And New York is mad! Get just to think of any one presuming to run for President without currying favor with the New York politicians! Mr. Bryan, it was said at Denver, did give the New York delegation to understand that if they agreed upon a man for Vice President he would favor him, but nobody has ever intimated that he begged them to put up a candidate or that he is to any degree sorry that they did not. The Chicago steam roller engineers decided that they would have to vote for Bryan in New York, and considered it of so much importance that they consented to take a man objectionable to the Roosevelt Republicans of the whole country and nauseatingly obnoxious to the Laboring masses of the middle West. They thought, of course, the Denver Democrats would also name a New York man, for to their minds, as it has been to nearly all political minds since the beginning of time, nobody has ever intimated that he begged them to put up a candidate or that he is to any degree sorry that they did not. The Chicago steam roller engineers decided that they would have to vote for Bryan in New York, and considered it of so much importance that they consented to take a man objectionable to the Roosevelt Republicans of the whole country and nauseatingly obnoxious to the Laboring masses of the middle West. They thought, of course, the Denver Democrats would also name a New York man, for to their minds, as it has been to nearly all political minds since the beginning of time, nobody has ever intimated that he begged them to put up a candidate or that he is to any degree sorry that they did not.

KILLED BY AN OFFICER

TO RAISE FREIGHT RATES

RAILROADS TAKE FINAL ACTION.

An Advance of From 4 to 10 Cents Per Hundred Pounds Over the Present Rates Decided Upon by the Executive Officers of the Railroad Systems Interested in the Meeting at Louisville.—The Increase Will Affect All the Territory South of the Ohio River and West of the Mississippi.—The Increase Necessary in Order to Meet Increased Expenses.—The Opponents of the Action Declared That at the Present Time It Was Impolitic, But They Were Overruled.—Indiana Shippers to Resist the Advance. Louisville, Ky., July 17.—That freight rates should be advanced in the territory of the Southeast Freight Association and the Southeastern Mississippi Valley Association, which takes in all of the territory south of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi river, was decided on at the meeting of the executive officers of all of the railroad systems interested, which closed to-day. The advance, it is said, will be from 4 to 10 cents a hundred pounds, horizontally to correspond with the advance decided on by the southwestern Freight Association recently. The advance was decided on after considerable opposition on the part of certain railroad executives who maintained that an advance of rates at the present time was impolitic, but this opposition was finally won over by the argument that in order to meet the various increased expenses, an increase in rates was absolutely necessary. The clerical forces of the railroads interested are quartered in Louisville temporarily working out the tariffs. It is considered probable that the tariffs will not be in shape for filing before August 1st, and in accordance with the requirements of the interstate commerce commission compelling rates to be filed 30 days prior to becoming effective the new rates will not be in force until September 1st.

CONFESSIONS TO FIVE MURDERS.

Negro Hanged Legally at Moundsville, West Virginia, For the Murder of a Woman of His Own Race, Tells of Other Similar Crimes and Gives the Names of His Victims—Hanged Originally From Georgia. Moundsville, W. Va., July 17.—Frank Johnson, a negro, was hanged to-day at the state penitentiary here for the murder of Beulah Martin at Gypsy, W. Va., on March 30, last. The execution was without incident and death came 9 minutes after the drop fell. A sensational feature of Johnson's last day was a confession made to the chaplain of the prison, the Rev. H. B. Sanford, in which he said he had committed five murders during his career. "It is all right to hang me; I deserve to be hanged," he told the clergyman, who had come to him to administer to his spiritual needs. Johnson then gave the names and addresses so far as he knew of them of the five persons he said he had killed. He gave details of some of the murders, but as to others refused to give particulars. Following is a list of alleged victims: Unknown man in 1896 in Blossburg, Ala. Edith S. Hanna, at 81 South Peoria street, Chicago, in 1904. Blue, of Shippenville, Pa., in 1906. A woman, name unknown, at 132 South Seventh street, Steubenville, O., on November 16th, 1907. Beulah Martin, negro, of Gypsy, W. Va., in March, 1907.

RUNAWAYS IN CINCINNATI.

Two Charlotte Lads, Willie Fowler and Peter Ezell, Fall Into Hands of Police, But Are Let Go—Mother of Fowler in Dying Condition and Wants to See Her Boy Before this End Comes. Cincinnati, O., July 17.—Willie Fowler and Peter Ezell, both 15 years old, runaways from Charlotte, N. C., are somewhere in Cincinnati. The father of the Ezell boy wired the local police this morning asking them to locate the lads. The Fowler boy's mother is dying and she wants to see her son before the end. An hour or two before the telegram was received two boys answering their position were detained for a few minutes by the police, but the officers allowed the boys to slip through their fingers. The lads seemed to give a pretty straightforward account of themselves and were allowed to go. Now the entire police are looking for them.

Alleged Murderer Brought to Charlotte From Winston.

Special to The Observer. Winston-Salem, July 17.—Ed Small, colored, who was arrested here last night on suspicion of being the man wanted in Charlotte for the murder of Charles Crocker, about eight months ago, was carried to Charlotte this evening by Policeman J. M. Youngblood, who arrived here this afternoon. The alleged murderer has been at work here for the city. The Charlotte officers had not previously identified the negro as the murderer, it is known to him and his fellow officers. A brother and other relatives of the murdered man are the only ones who can identify him.

Plea of Self-Defense Sustained by Court.

Special to The Observer. Spartanburg, S. C., July 17.—James and Lewis Simmons, father and son, who were tried in the Court of General Sessions for the charge of murdering Charles Crocker, were found not guilty. The case was begun yesterday and concluded this morning. The jury remained in the jury room about one hour. Crocker went to the home of the Simmons' armed with a shotgun and axe for the purpose of taking possession of a man. A shot took place and Crocker was killed. The defendant entered a plea of self-defense.

Ticket Taker on No. 39 Arrested at Spartanburg.

Special to The Observer. Spartanburg, S. C., July 17.—F. N. Willis, a ticket collector or auditor on passenger train No. 39, of the Southern road, was arrested here this morning on a warrant sworn out by Coroner J. S. Turner, charging him with breach of trust. Coroner Turner says that while a passenger on the train from Cowpens last Wednesday he was charged 40 cents fare, when he should have paid only 25 cents. Turner says he protested against the excessive charge and that Willis said he had as much grit as any man that ever came out of Virginia or Tennessee, and that Willis wanted to stop the train and settle the matter. The arrest of Willis caused considerable delay to 39, for the train had to be held until Willis could arrange to give bond. The case will be investigated next week.

HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A BIG PART.

New York has so long enjoyed the blessed position of being the pivotal State, the courted of both parties, that it is just simply unthinkable that she should be ignored. Owing to the bigness of New York's electoral vote, and the narrow and oscillating margin between the two parties, the Empire State has heretofore been able to dictate not only party platforms, but to a large extent candidates. Not producing great big men, she has yet had to have something and in more than before the presidential election, one or more of the candidates for the vice presidency comes from New York. Eleven times out of the twenty-nine presidential elections this country has elected a Vice President from the State of New York. Six of these have been Democrats—Aaron Burr, George Clinton (twice), Daniel D. Tompkins (twice), and Martin VanBuren; one was a Whig—Millard Fillmore; and five were Republicans—William Wheelwright, Hayes; Chester A. Arthur, under Garfield; Levi P. Morton, under Benjamin Harrison; and Theodore Roosevelt, under McKinley.

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Negro Hanged Legally at Moundsville, West Virginia, For the Murder of a Woman of His Own Race, Tells of Other Similar Crimes and Gives the Names of His Victims—Hanged Originally From Georgia. Moundsville, W. Va., July 17.—Frank Johnson, a negro, was hanged to-day at the state penitentiary here for the murder of Beulah Martin at Gypsy, W. Va., on March 30, last. The execution was without incident and death came 9 minutes after the drop fell. A sensational feature of Johnson's last day was a confession made to the chaplain of the prison, the Rev. H. B. Sanford, in which he said he had committed five murders during his career. "It is all right to hang me; I deserve to be hanged," he told the clergyman, who had come to him to administer to his spiritual needs. Johnson then gave the names and addresses so far as he knew of them of the five persons he said he had killed. He gave details of some of the murders, but as to others refused to give particulars. Following is a list of alleged victims: Unknown man in 1896 in Blossburg, Ala. Edith S. Hanna, at 81 South Peoria street, Chicago, in 1904. Blue, of Shippenville, Pa., in 1906. A woman, name unknown, at 132 South Seventh street, Steubenville, O., on November 16th, 1907. Beulah Martin, negro, of Gypsy, W. Va., in March, 1907.

RUNAWAYS IN CINCINNATI.

Two Charlotte Lads, Willie Fowler and Peter Ezell, Fall Into Hands of Police, But Are Let Go—Mother of Fowler in Dying Condition and Wants to See Her Boy Before this End Comes. Cincinnati, O., July 17.—Willie Fowler and Peter Ezell, both 15 years old, runaways from Charlotte, N. C., are somewhere in Cincinnati. The father of the Ezell boy wired the local police this morning asking them to locate the lads. The Fowler boy's mother is dying and she wants to see her son before the end. An hour or two before the telegram was received two boys answering their position were detained for a few minutes by the police, but the officers allowed the boys to slip through their fingers. The lads seemed to give a pretty straightforward account of themselves and were allowed to go. Now the entire police are looking for them.

Alleged Murderer Brought to Charlotte From Winston.

Special to The Observer. Winston-Salem, July 17.—Ed Small, colored, who was arrested here last night on suspicion of being the man wanted in Charlotte for the murder of Charles Crocker, about eight months ago, was carried to Charlotte this evening by Policeman J. M. Youngblood, who arrived here this afternoon. The alleged murderer has been at work here for the city. The Charlotte officers had not previously identified the negro as the murderer, it is known to him and his fellow officers. A brother and other relatives of the murdered man are the only ones who can identify him.

Plea of Self-Defense Sustained by Court.

Special to The Observer. Spartanburg, S. C., July 17.—James and Lewis Simmons, father and son, who were tried in the Court of General Sessions for the charge of murdering Charles Crocker, were found not guilty. The case was begun yesterday and concluded this morning. The jury remained in the jury room about one hour. Crocker went to the home of the Simmons' armed with a shotgun and axe for the purpose of taking possession of a man. A shot took place and Crocker was killed. The defendant entered a plea of self-defense.

Ticket Taker on No. 39 Arrested at Spartanburg.

Special to The Observer. Spartanburg, S. C., July 17.—F. N. Willis, a ticket collector or auditor on passenger train No. 39, of the Southern road, was arrested here this morning on a warrant sworn out by Coroner J. S. Turner, charging him with breach of trust. Coroner Turner says that while a passenger on the train from Cowpens last Wednesday he was charged 40 cents fare, when he should have paid only 25 cents. Turner says he protested against the excessive charge and that Willis said he had as much grit as any man that ever came out of Virginia or Tennessee, and that Willis wanted to stop the train and settle the matter. The arrest of Willis caused considerable delay to 39, for the train had to be held until Willis could arrange to give bond. The case will be investigated next week.

HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A BIG PART.

New York has so long enjoyed the blessed position of being the pivotal State, the courted of both parties, that it is just simply unthinkable that she should be ignored. Owing to the bigness of New York's electoral vote, and the narrow and oscillating margin between the two parties, the Empire State has heretofore been able to dictate not only party platforms, but to a large extent candidates. Not producing great big men, she has yet had to have something and in more than before the presidential election, one or more of the candidates for the vice presidency comes from New York. Eleven times out of the twenty-nine presidential elections this country has elected a Vice President from the State of New York. Six of these have been Democrats—Aaron Burr, George Clinton (twice), Daniel D. Tompkins (twice), and Martin VanBuren; one was a Whig—Millard Fillmore; and five were Republicans—William Wheelwright, Hayes; Chester A. Arthur, under Garfield; Levi P. Morton, under Benjamin Harrison; and Theodore Roosevelt, under McKinley.

Special to The Observer.

Waynesville, July 17.—The teachers' institute that has been in session here for the past two weeks came to an end to-day. Prof. W. D. Carmichael, of Durham, who has been in charge, closed his work this morning and the examinations for teachers' certificates began. These examinations will close to-morrow. Professor Carmichael has impressed himself upon the teachers of Haywood county and during the time he has been here he has given them much food for thought. The teachers in a series of resolutions to-day expressed their appreciation of his labors. If Mr. Bryan carries the "Solid South," as he did in 1896, with the ex-