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that those Wall Street speculators have permanently and speculatively injured the prospects of the American cotton grower. To this effect read certain reports recently received by the State Department from its consuls abroad, notably at Havana, Santiago de Cuba, and Mexico, which have been closely and intelligently watching the situation.

It may be true to a certain extent that, as the speculators claim, the physical conditions of the cotton fields are accountable for the falling off in the crop. It may be, as Mr. Sully recently wrote in a magazine article published in this issue, that the cotton fields are not so healthy as they were some years ago.

Col. Bryan's new issue is "Shall money changers rule?" Wyllyam J. If you mean men who have "sugar on the hip," we will answer that no party has ever taken the position that "money's no object."

There has been a late widespread and intelligent awakening of interest in the subject of the cotton supply of the world and the part which the United States plays in meeting the demand.

ROBBED PRIVATE CAR

Presidents Erwin and Elliott, of the Coast Line, Had Harrowing Experience. A VICIOUS NEGRO TRAMP. Stole Boldly from the Coach and Shot at Travelers and Officials Who Interfered—Sought by Bloodhounds at Length—Other Notes.

A desperate negro tramp, Jim Smith, entered and robbed the private car of President E. G. Erwin, of the Atlantic Coast Line, at daylight hours, Saturday morning, about Watkins Dillard, a member of the Central of Georgia Railway, and tried to kill two conductors, who attempted to arrest him. He wounded himself and jumped from the train and made his escape.

Moore demanded to know what the negro was doing on the car, and was told, with a string of oaths, to shut up and mind his business or he would be shot, the visitor at the same time displaying Moore's own pistol, which he had taken when he secured the vehicle.

The train was close to Egypt when the negro fell off, and was running between forty-five and fifty miles an hour. No effort was made to stop the train, and the matter was reported at the first stop, and again to the proper officers as soon as Savannah was reached.

The Hon. Claude Bernard's "open address" to the Republicans of North Carolina didn't fire up the words enough to make Chairman Rollins come down out of the locust tree.

THE WILMINGTON POSTOFFICE

Assistant Postmaster Wallace Back from Greensboro Last Night—Mr. Rollins Will Go to Washington Soon. Assistant Postmaster T. E. Wallace returned last night from Greensboro, where on Friday he attended the meeting of the Republican State Executive Committee.

Mr. Wallace had no talk with ex-Senator Marion Butler, who was at the Greensboro meeting, presumably in the advocacy of either Mr. D. L. Gore or Jno. H. Gore, Jr., for the Wilmington postoffice. In his report to the Greensboro meeting, the Charlotte Observer of yesterday says: "Of one thing there is a certainty, the committee did not allow even a mention of the Wilmington postoffice matter to come before it."

Constable Savage's Spirited Little Animal Smashed Up Two Buggles. Constable "Tack" Savage's little horse ran away yesterday and carried destruction in the wake of the procession for about a dozen blocks.

According to a New Progress. Capt. Nathan Williams, who presides over the destinies of the police department at night, has launched out into a watch repairing enterprise according to reports from his friends in the first ward.

Smallpox Near Florence. Florence Times: "Dr. Bacon has returned from Monck's Corner, where he looked into the smallpox situation which he found quite serious. He says there are many cases of smallpox down there. In a very small area thirty cases all of them were of a much more serious type than he usually has to contend with."

REPUBLICAN CLANS.

Meeting of the State Executive Committee Was Held in Greensboro Yesterday. CONVENTION ON MAY 18TH. It Will Be Held Early in the Gate City. Rollins Endorsed and Requests Were Thrown at the Roosevelt Administration—Notes.

It will be held early in the Gate City. Rollins Endorsed and Requests Were Thrown at the Roosevelt Administration—Notes. RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 5.—At the meeting of the Republican State Executive Committee to-day, all members were present except R. F. Mcbane, of Spray, N. C., and J. F. Wilson, of Charlotte.

Resolved, That all the people of the United States be congratulated upon the wise, wholesome and patriotic policy of the present Chief Executive. We congratulate Chief Executive Roosevelt upon the fact that his every right has been protected, and conserved in the fullest manner.

Negro Killed One and Seriously Wounded Another at Tarboro Yesterday. TARBORO, N. C., Feb. 6.—Infuriated by unrequited love and because she would not marry him, Randall Pittman, colored, shot and instantly killed Maggie Battle, a widow, here to-day and probably fatally wounded her sister, Louisa Barrett. Pittman had called and renewed his suit and after insistence, as Maggie was about to consent, Louisa protested, whereupon the man drew his pistol and shot both and then made his escape.

Market Street Plaza. There has been much ado about the matter of removing the plaza from Market street, between Front and Second, to Market, between Third and Fourth streets. It has been stated that it would be dangerous to the Fire Department and would therefore not be removed to the latter location.

LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW.

Thirty-six Out of Forty-three Passed Examination—Increase Capital Stock. RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 6.—The Supreme Court announced this afternoon the list of successful applicants for license to practice law, showing that of forty-three students who stood the examination last Monday only thirty-six passed.

He Will Become Pastor of First Baptist Church of Wilmington—His Work. Rev. Fred D. Hale, D. D., of Hot Springs, Ark., yesterday telegraphed his acceptance of the call to the pastorate of the First Baptist church of this city and will be here the middle of March to enter upon his new work.

WANTED FOR MURDER. Negro Man and Woman Driven to Bay in a Mississippi Swamp. VICKSBURG, Miss., Feb. 6.—Driven to bay in a dense swamp near Greenwood, Lutcher Holbert and his wife, colored, wanted at Doddsville for the murder of James Eastland, are prepared to sell their lives dearly.

Excitement at Roanoke. Talk About the Shields Case. Negroes Driven Out of Town for Incendiary Talk About the Shields Case. ROANOKE, Va., February 6.—Taylor Fields, a negro who was charged with talking about the Shields case in a way calculated to incite to riot, was taken from his home at Salem last midnight by a mob of several hundred men and with a rope around his neck, carried to the main street of the town where he was stripped of his waist, bound to a telephone pole and unmercifully whipped with pieces of electric light wire and sticks.

MURDER IN MISSISSIPPI. Fosse in Pursuit of Two Negroes Who Killed a Levee Inspector. NATCHES, Miss., February 6.—The body of Levee Inspector O. L. Hardwick, who was killed yesterday at Bluff Lake, was brought here to-day. His death was caused by gunshot wounds inflicted by Alex. Pence and Jim Leo, negroes, who are at large, pursued by a posse. Herdeman reprimanded one of the negroes, who with his companion, clubbed the inspector and shot him in the head and breast.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA ON EVE OF WAR.

A Tokio Dispatch Says That Diplomatic Relations Have Been Broken Off. RUSSIAN MINISTER READY. Preparations for Departure Are Progressing and He is Expected to Leave in a Few Days—Populace of Tokio Not Aware of Proceedings.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 6.—The scene of the Russo-Japanese negotiations has shifted, and now Russia waits for Japan, to see how her latest word is to be interpreted. In the meantime, communication has passed between the capitals of the contending powers the situation has become more tense, until it is now feared that the possibility of the situation is so serious that the question of change and that the questions at issue may go to the arbitration of sterner methods.

A Democrat's Gathering. Dinner of the Manhattan Club—Justice Alton B. Parker Heartily Endorsed for Presidential Nomination. NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—At a notable gathering of Democrats at a complimentary dinner given to-night by the members of the Manhattan Club to Justice Charles H. Trux, who presided, had many good things to say of Chief Justice and B. Parker, who is a candidate for the nomination of the court at the end of repeated cheers, that were followed with cries of "Judge Parker, the next President of the United States."

Tragedy in a Theatre. Two Men Shot and Killed by a Negro Ex-Convict—Murderer Escaped. Pursued by a Posse. MIDDLESBORO, N. Y., Feb. 6.—In the gallery of the Princess Theatre, at Middlesboro, to-night during a performance of West's Minstrels, John White, a negro ex-convict, shot and instantly killed Policeman John Burns and accidentally killed John Sharp, a switchman in the employ of the Louisville and Nashville railroad. The tragedy was the result of a threat by the police officer made during the day that he would arrest White for vagrancy.

William, P. Washburn, aged 74, a leading Tennessee lawyer, is dead. He was a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Amherst in 1851. He came to Knoxville in 1856 and was a law partner of United States Senator Horace Maynard. In the civil war he served as a Confederate soldier.

Smallpox has broken out at Gastonia. The congregation of the First Presbyterian church of Concord is to build a new church edifice. At Charlotte on Friday Burch Morrison, a negro with rabid character, was taken to the house of Mamie Hadler, in the night time, was bound over to court to be tried for his life. The Ripple says the act was very unparliamentary. While picking up coal by the railroad track in Winston a few days ago a colored woman got her hand crushed off by a car wheel passing over it. She did not see the approaching car and a wheel caught her hand and passed over it. While Henry Ruffy, a young man of the western part of Rowan county, was working with rabbits yesterday, he fell down a deep gully, causing one barrel of his gun to explode and lodge its contents in the right side of his face. He will lose the sight of one eye. A few days ago a young son of Mr. J. F. Carter, of Cabarrus county, got a peanut lodged in his windpipe. He was taken to a hospital, but on account of his youth it was deemed unwise to operate. The peanut finally lodged in his lungs and the boy died. Washington, N. C., Gazette-Messenger: "The issue of Bath," a story written by Miss Lida Tunstall Rodman, should prove interesting to our townpeople, as the scene is laid at Bath in the year 1714, being a romance interwoven with some facts in the early history of what is now Beaufort county. Salisbury News Senator Simmons would do well to let up on the Panama question. His speech did him credit and commanded praise even from those who do not agree to his position. His interview with the governor on Wednesday, however, is calculated to call for some explanations. A citizen of Barringer township tells the Mooreville Enterprise that a negro in Barringer recently went into an abandoned cotton patch, gathered the uncracked bolls, cracked them with a hammer, beat the staple with a hickory with, and in this way gathered cotton that amounted to \$5.08. A gift of \$800 has been made to the board of education by Mr. James F. Slate, of Mispah, Stokes county. This amount is not to be used for payment of board, laundry bills and room rent, as the regular contributions to the board are used, but it is to be loaned to young negroes who are unable to be compelled to leave college for lack of means to purchase books, clothing and other necessities. Raleigh News and Observer: The friends of the Baptist University all over North Carolina will rejoice to know that every dollar except two thousand has been raised to pay the debts due to that institution, and that amount is now being collected. It is a matter, not alone for congratulation by the trustees and friends of the institution, but to all believers in the education of women in North Carolina. While running sixty miles an hour, about a mile north of King Mountain, Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock, the Southern's fast mail train struck Miss Lula Adams, who was trying to cross the track in front of the engine, and knocked her fifteen feet into the air and over fifty feet distant. Miss Adams was instantly killed, including a crushing after she fell. Miss Adams was employed at the Dilling Cotton Mills, which are just beside the railroad, slightly over half a mile from the centre of the town of King's Mountain. Nashville Graphic: The farmers of Nash county have "put up" more home-made meat this year than in any year in many years. From every quarter comes reports of large quantities of meat saved. This means much for those who have made their smoke-house at home instead of Chicago and Omaha. With cotton selling at 16 cents, several at 30 cents now comes anxious to pay you 5 cents for the cotton rot bark. We may look for one dollar a dozen for the blossoms this summer, and properly cured leaves selling at 35 cents a pound. At Marion, N. C., Thursday night, Lish Garland shot Ivo Callicut in the waiting room at the station here. It seems that Garland was drinking and went down to the bar where were two negro boys in the room and he ordered the Gallicut boy to wake up the other boy and make a fire. Callicut refused and he again ordered him to do so and on the boy still refusing Garland caught him by the collar and shot him in the head, killing him dead. The doctors could not find the ball and think he will die. Garland made his escape, but the sheriff is looking for him in every direction. Mooresville correspondent of the Charlotte Observer: Mr. R. S. Templeton, our postmaster, has received from his son in the Philippines a letter containing a very interesting and a fearful looking instrument. It is a walking cane made of human bones is another. The workmanship is fine and the cane is very handsome. The last is a large variety of cane, with some very interesting variety is carved upon the cane, and looks very natural. Inside this stick is a fishing tackle. When drawn out to full length the cane is probably about twelve feet in length. It is very light. Judge J. N. Luce, of New Orleans, general attorney for the New Orleans and Northwestern Railway Company, and for the Nashville and Southern Railway Company, and a well known lawyer, was stricken with neuritis of the feet in the street at Roanoke, Va., last night and expired almost immediately, dying where he fell.