

The News and Observer.

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MRS. SOFFEL FALLS FIGHTING FOR LOVER

Stands Up With Two Revolvers Both Spitting Fire.

BULLETS BEGIN TO RAIN

Her Lover Falls and She Turns Her Weapon Against Her Own Breast.

EDWARD BIDDLE IS IN JAIL DYING

John Biddle is Desperately Wounded. Mrs. Soffel Shot Through the Breast, Will Recover. The Trio Brought to Bay by Eight Officers.

(By the Associated Press.)
Pittsburg, Jan. 31.—Edward Biddle is in jail dying, John Biddle, riddled with buckshot and in a precarious condition, and Mrs. Peter K. Soffel lying in the hospital with a self-inflicted bullet wound in the breast is the sequel of the sensational escape of the Biddle brothers from the Allegheny county jail, aided by Mrs. Soffel, the wife of the jail warden, on Thursday morning. The story of the close of the Biddle tragedy, which came to an end at 5:45 o'clock this afternoon is a thrilling one.

The scene was a snow covered road, two miles east of Prospect, Butler county, near Mount Chestnut, and the exact place was at McClure's barn, where two double team sleighs, filled with eight officers, three of them Pittsburg detectives, John Roach, Albert Swinehart and Charles McGovern, met the two Biddles in a one horse sleigh, stolen at Perrysville, and at once opened fire on the trio.

The Biddles returned the fire after jumping out of the sleigh. Mrs. Soffel was shot through the breast.

Edward Biddle was shot in the left arm, in the breast and in one leg.

John Biddle was riddled with buckshot in the breast and head.

The Pittsburg officers were met at Butler this afternoon by Deputy Sheriffs Rainey and Hoop, and Officers Frank Holliday and Aaron Thompson, the latter under command of Chief of Police Robert Ray, of Butler.

The officers were certain that they were on the right trail. It was only a question of time when they would catch up to the escaping condemned murderers and their companion.

The Biddles and Mrs. Soffel at dinner at J. J. Stephens, at Mount Chestnut, five miles east of Butler. They had made a detour of the town of Butler, and after going several miles east turned north and then west. The Pittsburg officers, only a few miles in the rear, took the wrong road for about eight miles, but when they found their mistake they made up for lost time by telephoning and telegraphing ahead for fresh horses.

They reached Mount Chestnut not less than half an hour after the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel. At this point William Watson, storekeeper, had fresh horses awaiting them, and the chase for life began again.

The two sleighs with the eight officers aboard, started westward, and met the Biddles and Mrs. Soffel at McClure's barn, two miles from Mount Prospect, the Biddles having learned that they were almost overtaken, and taking what they considered the only chance they had, drove eastward and met their doom.

The Pittsburg and other officers were armed with Winchester rifles and revolvers of large calibre. They shot to kill and their aim was perfect. The Biddles tried to kill to the last of their strength, but not one of the eight officers has a wound as the result of the battle.

When the detectives got within about sixty yards of the fugitives they opened fire. The Biddles promptly answered with shotgun and revolvers. Mrs. Soffel, too, stood up in the sleigh with a revolver in each hand and blazed away at her pursuers. When Ed. Biddle fell and she saw she was about to be captured she fired a bullet into her breast. An examination by physicians show that she will recover, as the bullet was deflected by her corset and the wound is comparatively slight.

Ed Biddle got a bullet in the breast, which penetrated his right lung and will probably end his life before morning. John Biddle may recover, his wounds, though numerous, failing to reach a vital spot. The escape of the officers is miraculous. The Biddles have demonstrated on several occasions that they are good marksmen, and why they should have failed today to bring down their men is a mystery.

After the Biddles fell to the snow-covered ground the officers picked up the apparently lifeless bodies of Mrs. Soffel and the Biddles and came back to Butler, bringing the stolen sleigh, patched up harness and worn out horse that the trio had tried so strenuously to get away with toward Canada and liberty.

Don't count your chickens until they are big enough to bluff a cat.

THE HOUSE RISES TO DEFEND ITSELF

Senate Threatens Invasion of Its Prerogative.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Inquiry to be Made Into a Claim by the Senate.

NEGOTIATING RECIPROITY TREATIES

This is the Issue, the Senate Holding That Those Affecting Custom Revenue May be Negotiated Without Concurrence of House.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 31.—The House today prepared to defend itself against what it considers the threatened invasion by the Senate of its prerogative in the matter of revenue legislation by directing the Ways and Means Committee to investigate the subject and report to the House its conclusions. The action of the House was the outgrowth of the agitation in the Senate's claim that reciprocity treaties affecting the customs revenues can be negotiated with the concurrence of the House.

The resolution adopted was the Tawney resolution. It was reported to the House by Mr. Dalzell from the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Dalzell said that the question involved one of the highest and most sacred privileges of the House.

As it concerned the relations between the two houses he thought action should be deliberately taken after the subject had been duly considered by a committee.

Mr. Underwood, Democrat, of Alabama, also a member of the Committee on Rules, joined with Mr. Dalzell in urging the adoption of the resolution. The settlement of the disputed question in favor of the House, he said, was necessary if the lower house expected to preserve its constitutional prerogative.

The resolution was adopted without division. Mr. Dalzell followed this resolution with another from the same committee to make the oleomargarine bill a special order for Monday next to continue until disposed of.

Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, the minority leader, saw no reason why this piece of legislation should be picked out and given priority over other bills.

Mr. Underwood, of Alabama, was opposed to the proposed legislation and declared that its opponents should begin the fight now on the adoption of the special order.

Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, also declared himself uncompromisingly opposed to the proposed legislation and all kindred legislation.

On roll call the special order was adopted 132 to 71. Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, presented as a matter of privilege a resolution reciting the pendency in the Senate of commercial treaties and bills affecting customs duties and revenues and declaring it to be the sense of the House that such treaties and bills invaded one of the highest prerogatives of the House.

Mr. Payne, the majority floor leader, made the point of order that the resolution was not privileged. He contended that until the Senate actually sent to the House a bill or negotiated a treaty which invaded the rights of the House nothing should be done which constituted a matter of privilege here.

Mr. Richardson, however, contended that the House should not wait until an overt act was committed. He cited the report made to the House by the late Randolph Tucker, of Virginia, and that made to the Senate by Senator Allison and the late Senator Voorhees in support of his contention.

Speaker Henderson pointed out that Mr. Richardson's resolution did not contain a single averment that there had been an actual assault on the rights of the House and ruled that the resolution was not privileged.

The House adjourned.

ELECTIVE BY THE PEOPLE.

Term of Office of Commissioner of Agriculture Fixed at Four Years.

(By the Associated Press.)

Richmond, Va., Jan. 31.—The Constitutional Convention did a good day's work today. The chair announced the appointment of Messrs. Watson and Meredith as additional members of the Committee on Final Revision. On motion of Mr. Braxton the report of the Committee on Corporations was made a special and continuing order by the convention for 10:30 o'clock a. m. on Tuesday.

The report of the Committee on Agriculture was then taken up, its consideration was completed and it was referred to the convention.

Some sweeping amendments were adopted. The most significant one was that making the Commissioner of Agriculture, elective by the people, and fixing the term of office at four years.

Another was that striking out the additional members of the Board of Agriculture, and leaving it constituted as at present, except that the president of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute shall be a member of it.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE TARIFF BILL

Congress Has no Right to Levy Such Tariff.

THUS ARGUES MR MORGAN

Free Trade in All the Union Under the Flag.

FILIPINOS HAD A GOOD GOVERNMENT

Mr. Morgan Urges the Establishment of an Executive Department for the Control of the Philippines. A Brush With Tillman.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 31.—An extended speech upon the pending Philippines tariff bill was delivered in the Senate today by Mr. Morgan, of Alabama. While he discussed in a general way the pending measure, he devoted his attention particularly to an amendment to it which he offered last week. He maintained that the enactment of the bill as it stands now would not be a constitutional remedy for the situation which the situation is designed to relieve, but with the adoption of his amendment the bill would stand the closest scrutiny of the courts. The Alabama Senator did not discuss the present phases of the Philippine question, devoting his entire speech to a consideration of the legal and constitutional questions raised by the presentation of the tariff measure.

An hour and a half was devoted to consideration of a measure providing for the increase of the salaries of judges of the United States courts, but no action was taken on the bill.

The bill was opposed by Senators Berry, of Arkansas, and Blackburn, of Kentucky, the former saying many people thought the justices were not worth \$19,000 a year. Senators Spooner, of Wisconsin, McComas, of Maryland, Hawley, of Connecticut, and Fairbanks, of Indiana, supported the increase.

When the Philippine tariff bill was taken up Mr. Morgan argued that Congress had no constitutional authority to levy a discriminating tariff either upon imports or exports between the United States and the Philippines.

"I believe in the doctrine of free trade in all parts of the United States, whether covered by the Constitution, the flag or both," he said.

Mr. Morgan contended that an export duty is plainly forbidden, even though, in the case of the Philippines, the duty was levied there.

Speaking of the claims which had been made that there was no lawful government in the Philippines, Mr. Morgan with great earnestness said, "there is a government there and he was glad to say a very good government, suitable to the character of those people and the circumstances in which we found them."

Mr. Morgan, in referring to the work of the Philippine commission, their personality and ability, paid a tribute to the late president McKinley, who, he said, was the happiest man in the world in making selections of men for responsible positions.

At one point Mr. Tillman asked: "Did you say we are in the Philippines with the consent of those people?" Mr. Morgan replied saying that he did not propose to be interrupted just for the amusement of the Senator from South Carolina. Mr. Morgan urged the establishment of an executive department for the control of the Philippines.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned until Monday.

GOOD ROADS DELEGATES.

Representatives From Western Counties to the State Convention.

(Special to the News and Observer.)
Asheville, N. C., Jan. 31.—President Frank Loughran, of the Appalachian Good Roads Association, this morning appointed the following delegates to the Good Roads State Convention at Raleigh: Burke county, Thomas Moore; Henderson county, A. Cannon Lincoln county, Samuel Burgin; McDowell county, Dr. M. F. Morphew; Swain county, R. L. Leatherwood; Transylvania county, J. J. Minor; Gaston county, M. P. Eddieman; Haywood county, J. M. Hiatt; Madison county, C. A. Nichols; Catawba county, A. A. Shuford; Polk county, H. E. Gray; Jackson county, D. E. Davies; Buncombe county, M. L. Reed, Thomas Wadley Reoul, John A. Nichols; Rutherford county, C. C. Gettys; Cherokee county, J. H. Woods; Graham county, W. P. Rowe; Clay county, J. C. Herbert; Macon county, John C. Wright.

TWO FROM WILMINGTON.

Four Men Suspected of Due West Robbery Under Arrest.

(By the Associated Press.)

Abbeville, S. C., Jan. 31.—Sheriff Lyon, of this county, brought in today from Calhoun Falls four men suspected of the robbery of Due West postoffice. The give their names as follows: J. W. Casey, of Boston; Gus Broed, of Baltimore; Joe Alford, and W. N. Brooks, of Wilmington, N. C.

The men are in all awaiting identification by Postoffice Agent George Smith.

PROPERTY WORTH A MILLION IS IN ASHES

The Fire Subdued at Five in the Morning.

AIDED BY VEERING WIND

Atlantic Hotel's Proprietor Himself Aroused His Guests.

NO LIVES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST

Buildings Destroyed the Atlantic Hotel, Columbia Building, Albemarle Flats and a Block of Stores. Loss Half Covered by Insurance.

(By the Associated Press.)

Norfolk, Jan. 31.—A heap of smoking ruins is all that remains today of the Atlantic Hotel, the massive Columbia office building, which adjoined the hotel, the Albemarle flats and a block of stores in the center of the city.

The conflagration, one of the greatest in the history of Norfolk, broke out shortly before 2 o'clock this morning and when finally subdued over half a million dollars worth of property had been destroyed. The loss is believed to be fully covered by insurance.

The flames started in the Columbia, which is the largest but one of Norfolk's office buildings. It was a structure six stories high and was built in 1892, by Davis Lowenber, its owner.

The fire was first discovered at 1:55 o'clock this morning and shortly afterwards over 1,000 gallons of whiskey stored in the building exploded with terrific force, tearing out the front wall. The firemen were driven back by the explosion and before they could get a stream of water on the flames the entire building was afire. Hardly fifteen minutes later the north wall, which was over 75 feet high, fell in, completely annihilating the home of the Virginia Club, which adjoins the building on the north.

From the outset it was evident that the immense Atlantic Hotel was doomed. J. Hull Davidson, its proprietor, personally made the rounds of the rooms and aided by his assistants aroused every guest in the building. To this is due the fact that so far as known no life was lost, although about 300 people were asleep in the hotel when the alarm was sounded.

The little army of half dressed men and women refugees from the flames eluded their way through the crowded streets. In their hands they carried such small belongings as they were able to save in their flight. The flames soon spread to the five story Albemarle apartment-house opposite the Virginia Club, which was quickly destroyed, and then to the entire block facing the Atlantic and running from Plume street to Main street. Within an hour this block was annihilated.

The flames finally were subdued through the hard work of the fire department and the shifting of the wind, which veered to the northeast just as the fire had gotten a grasp on the big department store of Watt, Rettew & Clay. Live coals rained on the Merchant and Miners and Bay Line warehouses, the piers and the wholesale non-stone buildings of Talbot, Dudson and Brady, and driving the Western Union operators from their offices in the Dodson buildings. All these structures were saved. The fire was subdued at 5 o'clock this morning.

The origin of the fire is not known. The blaze was first discovered in Brown's Cafe, which occupies half of the Columbia building, by a policeman, who immediately turned in the alarm. The whiskey which exploded was in this cafe. All the Atlantic Hotel guests escaped, though J. Q. Ready, of Brooklyn, N. Y., had a close call. The Watts, Rettew & Clay building was saved, although the stock was damaged by water.

In the Atlantic Hotel building were the offices of the Southern, Baltimore and Ohio and Norfolk and Western railroads. The offices of Nottingham & Wrenn, wood dealers; the Equitable Life Assurance Company; Dodson's drug store; Vermillion's liquor store, and Solomon's tailor's establishment.

In the Columbia building were the offices of D. Lowenber, the owner, and of numerous real estate firms, lawyers, physicians, architects and contractors.

In the block destroyed with the Albemarle were Johnston's china store; Carey & Dean, tailors; Hatch & Dean, furnishes; Motter, Dewitt & Co., brokers; Stephenson & Taylor, brokers; the Norfolk and Western foreign freight department and the offices of the Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia Air Line. While in most cases valuable private papers were saved, a large quantity of personal property of unknown value was lost. The loss to the owners of the Atlantic Hotel is about \$250,000, covered by insurance, and of the Columbia building \$90,000, on which there was \$35,000 insurance. The Virginia Club was a fashionable institution and its quarters were handsomely furnished.

LATER ESTIMATE OF LOSS.

The loss will approximate \$900,000, possibly half covered by insurance. The buildings burned were: The Atlantic Hotel, for which with its

site Mr. C. M. Randolph, who is associated with Mr. R. Lancaster Williams, of Richmond, in the Ocean View Railroad, recently paid \$310,000.

The Columbia building, which cost \$50,000, everything in the offices in the building destroyed, loss over \$100,000.

The Albemarle apartment house, owned by Mr. George L. Arps, valued at about and lost \$10,000.

The Johnston China Company, with a costly stock occupied the ground floor and lost \$10,000.

The building owned by Mr. C. W. Sams, valued at \$12,000.

Motter Dewitt & Company, bankers and brokers, occupied two floors of the building and lost valuable papers.

The building owned by Mrs. Sarah Allmond, occupied by Stephenson & Taylor, real and estate, other tenants, loss \$10,000.

The buildings occupied by Hatch & Dean, men's furnishings, \$15,000; L. B. Carey, merchant tailor, \$10,000.

L. G. Black, florist, and three buildings on Plume street in the rear of the Virginia Club, \$20,000.

TO REDUCE CAPITALIZATION.

Cotton Duck Corporation Directors Recommend a Drop of \$20,000,000.

(By the Associated Press.)
New York, Jan. 31.—A meeting of the recently elected board of directors of the United States Cotton Duck Corporation was held here today, when the following officers were elected:

Trenor L. Park, president; J. Spencer Turner, of New York, William H. Wellington, of Boston, David H. Carroll, of Baltimore, and J. Southgate Lemmon, of Baltimore, vice presidents; Charles K. Oliver, of Baltimore, treasurer; David H. Carroll, of Baltimore, secretary; John R. Oorsey, of Baltimore, assistant secretary; James E. Dorsey, of Baltimore, assistant secretary; James E. Hooper, general manager; S. Davies Warfield, of Baltimore, was elected chairman of the board.

The board adopted resolutions recommending the stockholders to reduce the capitalization of the company from \$50,000,000 (equally divided between preferred and common stock) to \$30,000,000 (equally divided between said stocks), the reduction to be accomplished by retiring treasury stock to the extent of \$10,000,000 of each class; authorized by the certificate of incorporation but still unissued.

A meeting of stockholders will be held on ten day's notice to act upon the above proposition.

HE TRIED TO SUICIDE

An Old Man Uses a Pistol on Himself.

An Irishman From New England Homeless and Without Work Found on the Street.

At Rex Hospital.

Homeless, without money and with no prospect of work Patrick Gorman, an aged white man, attempted suicide on the streets of Raleigh yesterday morning.

Officer Haynes, while on Fayetteville street near the capitol yesterday morning met an old man and saw blood stains about his head and face. He lurched around as if staggering and the officer, thinking that perhaps he was drunk took hold of the man.

But the old fellow was not drunk. Blood about the forehead showed where he had used a pistol on himself, and the ball had apparently penetrated partly into the skull. He was at once taken to the station house and Dr. J. W. McGee, Jr., the city physician, was called to his aid. Being attended to he was found to be in such a condition as to require treatment at Rex Hospital, where he was taken.

Patrick Gorman is the man's name, and according to his statement he is an Irishman and is seventy-four years old. He came to Raleigh from Massachusetts where he had worked in the cotton mills, but could find no work here.

In desperation he sought admission to county poor house but as this care only for the poor of the county he could not. On Thursday morning he sought Chief of Police Mullins at the Mayor's office, and told him he was here sick and penniless. Chief Mullins told him that he might find a place in the county poor house, but that as the city had no authority to send him to the county home he should see the county authorities.

There was a look of hopelessness on the old man's face, as he told the Chief that he had already asked for a place there. "They can do nothing for me," he said, "because I have not lived here a year. I can't get work and I don't know what I am going to do."

Besides this he told that he had tried to get work in some cotton mills, but could get nothing to do. He was told that if he was sick it could be arranged to have him put in a hospital on a physician's certificate, and that this was the best that could be done under the circumstances.

The old man left, and the next incident came when he was found yesterday morning with the wound in his head. Gorman is a well preserved man for his age, but is rather deaf. It is supposed that after making further attempts to get work or to get aid of some kind he became desperate and used a pistol on himself.

The Luckenbach Floated.

(By the Associated Press.)

BUSINESS HALTS ON BAD WEATHER

Southern Trade Conditions Are Unsatisfactory.

PRICES ARE IRREGULAR

This Applies to Cereals, Hog Products and Cotton.

FOREIGNERS BUYING COTTON FREELY

Confidence in a Small Crop is Still Undiminished. Staple Cotton Goods Continue Quiet. Snow Brings Hopes of Large Grain Yield.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 31.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

The future may be said this week to have brightened at the expense of the present. In other words, current weather conditions such as heavy snow falls East, West and North, tend to check buying, except of purely seasonal goods at retail, and to limit slightly the volume of demand in wholesale lines. On the other hand, the covering of the entire Northern half of the country with a blanket of snow has bettered the situation of the winter-sown crops and the outlook for spring as a whole has, therefore, been greatly improved. No diminution in confidence in a large spring business is reported, though Southern trade advices continue unsatisfactory. Northern and Western buyers are calling for deliveries on spring account much earlier than usual, an encouraging feature as indicating that unsold stocks of winter goods are not excessive. Other developments of the week are in the main favorable. Iron furnaces in the Chicago district have greatly resumed.

Considerable irregularity is noted in prices of cereals, hogs products and cotton. After the late heavy decline in prices has come several reactionary movements in wheat, which tends to discourage export demand. Wheat strengthened, early in the week on Bradstreet's report of a heavy decrease in the visible supply, but weakened later on improved winter wheat crop prospects. Corn has displayed rather more strength than wheat, a number of diverse influences operating, while in oats the feature was a spectacular break of 5 cents per bushel on one day, most of which was, however, later regained.

Uncertainty still rules in the market. Confidence in a small yield is still undiminished, though current receipts throw discredit on minimum estimates. Trade advices at home and abroad continue good, and the foreigners are certainly buying the staple freely. Staple cotton goods are still rather quiet, but reports from the jobbing trade East and West are favorable particularly as regards printed fabrics and ginghams on spring account.

Business failures for the week number 602, as against 236 in this week last year. Failures in Canada number 48, as against 27 in this week a year ago.

COMPARATIVE COTTON STATEMENT.

New York, Jan. 31.—For the week ending January 31, 1902: Net receipts at all United States ports during week, 204,633; net receipts at all United States ports during same week last year, 191,946; total receipts to this date, 5,869,792; total receipts to same date last year, 5,231,589; exports for the week, 237,946; exports for same week last year, 150,256; total exports to this date, 4,522,632; total exports to same date last year, 3,958,744; stocks at all United States ports, 889,749; stocks at all United States ports same time last year, 856,837; stock at all interior towns, 630,732; stock at all interior towns same time last year, 717,962; stock at Liverpool, 991,609; stock at Liverpool same time last year, 747,000; stock of American float for Great Britain, 279,000; stock of American float for Great Britain same time last year, 195,000.

TOTAL NET RECEIPTS.

New York, Jan. 31.—The following are the total net receipts of cotton at all ports since September 1, 1901: Galveston 1,621,329 bales; New Orleans 1,676,857; Mobile 135,449; Savannah 945,806; Charleston 227,491; Wilmington 238,959; Norfolk 356,515; Baltimore 62,954; New York 129,860; Boston 79,811; Newport News 11,464; Philadelphia 21,542; Portland, Ore., 6,870; Brunswick 90,844; Ferdinandia 4,350; Port Arthur 27,375; Port owned 81,154; Pensacola 132,108; Vancouver 21,551; San Francisco 14,200. Total 5,869,792.

TOTAL BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, Jan. 31.—Total bank clearings for the week ended January 30, \$2,157,122,942; increase 59 per cent; outside New York, \$748,956,589; increase 13.6.

Farge Goes Ashore.

(Special to the News and Observer.)
Washington, N. C., Jan. 31.—The lumber barge Minerva, with a cargo of three hundred and fifty thousand feet of lumber, has gone aground at the bridge here, stopping all traffic on the river. The Minerva was bound from Eureka Mill to Philadelphia.

We have had four days of hard rain accompanied by a northwest wind, and in some places the river is out of its banks.