

RENDERS VERDICT OF GUILTY

Decision Against the Two Coopers for Killing of Sen. Carmack--20 Years in the Penitentiary the Penalty.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—Guilty of murder in the second degree—punishment 20 years' imprisonment—this was the unexpected verdict rendered by the jury against Col. Duncan B. Cooper and Robin J. Cooper when the court opened Saturday.

Rush to Sign Bond. Although Judge Hart fixed the bond at \$25,000 there was a rush to sign it on the part of wealthy citizens of Nashville which fairly swamped the clerk of the criminal court.

The first to arrive was John J. Greener, who signed for \$10,000 on each bond. Several others had been sent for and telephoned that they would come as quickly as automobiles would bring them. In a few moments Walter O. Parmer arrived and signed for the balance.

The Jury's Verdict.

At 9:25 the 12 men entered the room and took the same seats they had occupied for nearly 9 weeks.

"Have you agreed upon a verdict, gentlemen?" said Judge Hart.

"We have," replied Foreman E. M. Burke hoarsely.

"Advance, Mr. Foreman, and read the verdict."

"We, the jury, find the defendants Duncan B. Cooper and Robin J. Cooper guilty of murder in the second degree and assess their punishment at confinement in the State penitentiary for a period of twenty years."

"So say you all, gentlemen?"

"So say we all," in chorus.

"I thank you, gentlemen," said the court, "for your patience and devotion to the State, and dismiss you to your homes and to your personal vocations."

The jurors were tired-looking and disheveled, but with the conclusion of this remark the entire 12 sprang from their seats as one man and hurriedly left the court room.

CENSUS BUREAU REPORT

Amount of Cotton Stocks on Hand February 28 Was 5,252,663 Bales Report Preliminary to Official Statement and is Made at Request of Congress—Total Supply of Cotton.

Washington, Special.—The census bureau in a report Monday announced that the amount of cotton stocks on hand in the United States at the close of February was 5,252,663 bales.

The indicated consumption of cotton is 2,521,436 bales. The report is a preliminary one, and is in response to a resolution of Congress. The stocks on hand are distributed as follows:

Manufacturers, 1,844,992; producers, 326,377; warehouses and compresses, 2,306,786; transportation companies, 518,479; other holders, 255,669.

The total supply of cotton in the United States and the net imports for the six months' period ending February 28, last, were 74,340,670 and 98,000 bales respectively. The total stock held September 1, last, was 1,236,058 and cotton ginned since August 31, last, aggregated 13,000,612 running bales. The total export of cotton from September 1, 1908, to February 28, last, inclusive, was 6,566,571 bales.

The approximate segregation of cotton stocks shown in the report relates to location and not to ownership. Cotton in warehouses owned and operating in conjunction with mills is classed as in possession of manufacturers, under independent warehouses and compresses is shown all cotton so stored, regardless of its ownership. Cotton of foreign growth included in these statistics amounts to 55,629 bales, of which 50,561 are Egyptian, 1,850 Indian, 3,085 Peruvian and 124 others. Of the total amount held 3,721,971 bales were in the cotton-growing States and 1,530,692 bales in all other States.

Fendish Shot From Ambush.

Huntington, W. Va., Special.—John and Frank Flemming, alleged members of a feud gang that has terrorized Harts Creek, incoln county, 40 miles south of this city, were shot from ambush Monday evening.

John was killed and Frank was seriously wounded. John Flemming was released Saturday from the penitentiary, where he served two years for conspiracy to defraud the government. When he learned that his young wife had secured a divorce and had married John McCoy, a bitter enemy of his, the Flemming brothers started for McCoy's home. They were ambushed en route.

Five Persons Die in Mine Explosion.

Evansville, Ind., Special.—Five men were killed and a score injured in an explosion at the Sunnyside coal mine near this city Saturday afternoon. The explosion was caused by a windy shot due to an overcharge of powder shot to have been placed by John Pettit. Pettit is burned over his entire body and will die. The dead were all killed by sulphuric fumes which followed the shot. The mine was swept as if by a whirlwind. Twenty-nine men were in the west shaft of the mine when the explosion occurred.

Wild Train Hits Station.

Montreal, Special.—Four persons are dead and thirty others were more or less seriously injured as the result of the blowing out of a wash pipe on the locomotive hauling the Boston express of the Canadian Pacific Railway Wednesday morning. Three men came from this city. Scalding steam filled the cab and the engineer and fireman were forced to jump. The train without a guiding hand at the throttle, dashed into the Windsor street station, through the granite wall into the woman's waiting room and then into the rotunda.

Furniture Shippers Must Pack Their Wares.

Mobile, Ala., Special.—The Southern classification committee adjourned to meet in Atlantic City in July. The committee devoted most of its time to correcting errors in the packing of freight, with a view to decreasing the number of claims for damages. It was ordered also that fibre boxes must be made waterproof.

Shortest Bill on Record.

Washington, Special.—Representative Coudrey, of Missouri, has just introduced what is probably the shortest bill so far presented during the present session, yet if enacted into law it would attract more attention than the Sherman Antitrust law. After the enacting clause the entire bill is as follows:

That from and after the passage of this act all corporations shall pay a license tax of 1-10 of 1 per cent on their capital.

Items of General Interest.

Small pox is said to be raging in Guatemala and Mexico is making rigid quarantine against it. The latest prospects in the East are for peace. The Servian government according to Austria's propositions. A case was handed down from the higher courts of Georgia recently, to the effect that for a man to call a Georgian a liar meant a fight and it to be construed as an assault.

A CHILD KIDNAPPED

Willie Whitlea, Aged 8, Taken From School at Sharon, Pa

NO CLUE TO THE PERPETRATORS

Willie Whitlea, 8 Years Old, Taken From His School at Sharon, Pa.—Held For \$10,000 Ransom—Terms Complied With, But Plan Fails.

On last Friday Willie Whitlea, 8 years old, was kidnapped from school at Sharon, Pennsylvania. A well dressed man drove up to the school and told the janitor that Willie's father had sent him to bring Willie to his office. Not suspecting anything wrong the teacher fixed Willie up and sent him on, in light pleasantry saying she hoped he was not being kidnapped.

All too soon she found that it was a stern reality. A letter was received Friday in Willie's own hand which read:

Dear Father:

Two bad men have me, and if you don't send \$10,000 they will kill me in 10 days.

There was nothing on the envelope to denote where the letter had been mailed.

Frank H. Buhl, a millionaire uncle of Willie's took a decided interest in the case and will freely pay the \$10,000 for his safe recovery. It was reported from that city that two men and a boy answering the description of the kidnappers and their victim have been seen there, consequently the supposition is that Mr. Buhl has received word which made him believe his nephew was in Cleveland or that vicinity. The buggy in which the child was taken from school was located at Warren Ohio, and as the Cleveland papers were among those specified, in which the demand of the kidnapers for a \$10,000 ransom should be answered by a personal advertisement, all evidence seemed to indicate that developments in the mysterious case was centered about the Lake City.

A clue was secured Sunday, in which little credence is placed, however. On March 1 the local postoffice department received a circular announcing a reward for a man described as Samuel C. Leavonson, of Canton, O., said to be wanted there for the theft of \$400. Janitor Wesley C. Sloss, of the school from which Willie was taken, when shown the circular bearing a portrait of the man wanted, declared it bore a strong resemblance to the abductor.

A Cleveland, O., special on Sunday says: Whitlea was instructed in a letter by the kidnapers to leave \$10,000 in Flat Iron Park Saturday night. If no detectives were about the kidnapers promised they would deliver the boy safely to the father in a hotel at Ashabula at 3 o'clock Sunday morning. Whitlea deposited the money as requested, but the Ashabula police learned of the plans to pay the ransom and went to the park. The kidnapers are supposed to have seen them, for at 3 o'clock the money was intact and not a man had approached the spot.

Whitlea believes that the failure to effect a settlement with him will frighten the kidnapers and they will not communicate with him again. The police of Ashabula are unwilling to believe that the kidnapers have left that section of the country. The letter from the captors of Willie Whitlea came to the boy's parents in Sharon Friday afternoon.

Upon receipt of the letter Whitlea called in private detectives and asked their advice. They were anxious to capture the kidnapers and pleaded with him to permit them to place a decoy package of bills at the designated spot and let officers lie in wait and capture the men who came after the money.

Whitlea would not agree to this. He finally consented to permit the detectives to accompany him to this city and await his summons to start a search for the kidnapers.

Prompts at 20 o'clock Whitlea left the package of bills in the park. He went to the designated spot alone, feeling certain that his compliance with the request of the kidnapers would prove the means of delivering him back to him.

Three policemen who had been sent out from the Ashabula central station saw Whitlea leave the money in the park. They appraised Chief Laskey of their discovery and received instructions to remain on duty and capture the kidnapers should they appear.

In the meantime Whitlea returned to the city and communicated with his detectives in Cleveland. They advised him not to go to the hotel for his boy a minute before the time set.

After five hours of anxious waiting, Whitlea stated after his boy. As he was on his way, a policeman informed him that three officers had been on guard in the immediate vicinity of the park and that no one had called for the money.

Whitlea was overcome when this news was broken to him. He went to the park and found his package of money undisturbed.

A detachment of detectives was sent out from Cleveland as soon as it was learned that the Ashabula police were working on the case.

The father refuses to sleep at all and keeps up through sheer will power. The mother, who will not allow her daughter, Saline, out of her sight, is showing the effects of the worry.

Whitlea returned to Cleveland and after a conference with Detective Perkins the return trip to Sharon was made.

Hundreds of letters from all over the country continue to pour in from friends and strangers alike, tendering sympathy. But among all the correspondence there has been no word from the abductors, nor any one who seemed to be in any way in touch with them.

THE CHILD IS RESTORED

Required Ransom Paid Agent—The Scene of the Reunion Was Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, O.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Little Willie Whitlea, who has caused the police of the entire country endless worry since he was kidnapped from school in Sharon, Pa., last Thursday, was returned to his father at the Hollenden Hotel here Monday night at 8:30 o'clock.

In compliance with an arrangement entered into between the kidnaped boy's father and an agent of the kidnapers here Monday the boy was placed on a street car on the outskirts of the city and started to the hotel shortly after 8 o'clock. Two boys recognized the lad on the car and taking him in charge, conducted him to his father, who was in waiting. The moment the anxious parent heard that a strange boy was in the hotel he rushed across the lobby, grasped him in his arms and smothered his face with kisses.

Willie is in perfect health. He says that he has been well treated and ever since his capture has been constantly indoors. He believes he was taken from Sharon to Warren and thence to Newcastle, Pa. It is his opinion, expressed in a happy school-boy way, that he was in Ashabula on Saturday night at the time his father was to leave his \$10,000 in Flat Iron Park.

Whitlea, senior, refused to state whether he had paid the ransom or not. He said that he received a letter Monday from the kidnapers at his home in Sharon, saying that if he called at a confectionary store in the east end of Cleveland he would be told how to secure his boy "unharmled and well fed."

In Mortal Terror of Kidnapers.

Shortly after noon he left Sharon for Cleveland. He was unaccompanied. His immediate family and the private detectives he had in his employ he apprised of the proposed secret meeting, but insisted that he make the trip alone. Every one of them was warned that he must be allowed to go unharmed, and no attempt at the capture of the kidnapers new be made.

Whitlea is certain that if he spoiled the plans of his son's captors he would never see the lad again. His experience at Ashabula served as a warning.

About 2 o'clock in the afternoon he went to a candy store in the east end. With him he carried the \$10,000, expecting that it would be demanded of him there. He was met by a woman who detailed to him the terms of the kidnapers. With all the eagerness of a distracted parent Whitlea agreed to them immediately.

Willie Unconscious of His Danger.

In the meantime little Willie was being treated kindly and even at this time does not realize what danger he was in. The woman at the candy store had done her duty. She communicated with the captors of the boy and told them that the father had made no attempt to trap them. The boy was brought from his unknown hiding place to a car line in the east end of the city.

Part of Willie's Story.

"When we got to a town that the man called Newcastle, they took me to a big building and turned me over to a woman. She was good to me. The hospital, or whatever the building was, was a clean place. There was a man there who I think was a doctor. He looked like a doctor, because he had whiskers, short gray whiskers.

"The people in the hospital told me that I must do just what they told me to do. If I did not obey them, they said they would take me to a place called the pest house, where folks that have smallpox have to go. I walked the chalk line just like a good boy, papa, like you've told me to."

"They told me I was taking a little vacation. I was not going to be hurt, they told me, so I just acted nice and had a good time playing around the hospital. I knew I would get back home all right and just supposed Mr. Jonse was one of my friends who was treating me nice because you wanted him to treat me that way, papa dear."

Before retiring for the night, Mr. Whitlea admitted that he had paid \$10,000 to the woman in the candy store.

Triple Murder Charge.

Amite, La., Special.—With the court house surrounded by State troops, the trial of Avery Blount charged with the murder of Buzzy Breeland, his wife and step-daughter. Mrs. Joe Everett, near Tickfaw, on the night of January 29, was begun here Monday. Garfield Kinchen, alleged to have been implicated in the murders with Blount, is still a fugitive from justice.

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

Occurrences of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the Busy Tar Heel State

Taylorsville Train Wrecked.

Statesville, Special.—The mixed passenger and freight train from Taylorsville, which is due in Statesville at 10:10 o'clock was wrecked Thursday morning at a point about one and a half miles south of Henderson. Two loaded box cars, the baggage and mail car and the second-class passenger coach left the track and were badly damaged, but no one was hurt. The locomotive broke loose from the derailed cars and remained on the track uninjured, and the first-class passenger coach, which was at the rear of the train, did not leave the rails. As soon as the extent of the damage was learned the locomotive proceeded to Stony Point station, where an empty box car was secured. Chairs were placed in the car and it was taken to the scene of the wreck. Captain Rowland quickly transferred the passengers to the box car—a side door Pullman?—and the engine and car came on to Statesville, arriving here on schedule time. The train which arrived here from Charlotte at 10 o'clock was sent back to Charlotte and the morning train to Taylorsville was annulled. What caused the wreck is not known and neither Engineer Patton or Captain Rowland offer any theories as to the cause.

New Industrial News Deal.

Greensboro, Special.—Another turn was taken in the affairs of The Industrial News Thursday, when Judge Boyd signed an order transferring the bankruptcy proceedings against the corporation to Mr. G. S. Ferguson, Jr. referee in bankruptcy. Referee Ferguson will advertise a meeting of creditors for the purpose of electing a trustee for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the bankrupt. The Daily Industrial News, which was established here as the Republican organ in North Carolina early in October, 1905, was placed in the hands of a receiver November 14, 1909, and the paper suspended publication January 29. The receiver made three attempts to sell the property, but a single bid being offered at the last sale, on February 15th. The failure to resurrect The Industrial News means that, for a while, at least, Greensboro will be without an Associated Press morning paper.

Mr. Walter H. Savoy, the representative of the Mergenthaler Company, is here and has arranged to have the linotype machines used by The Industrial News boxed and shipped to the company's factory in Brooklyn, N. Y. Mr. Charles G. Harrison, of the Harrison Printing Company, has been engaged to take down and prepare the machines for shipment and went to work on the job Thursday.

Hearing in Whitney Case.

Salisbury, Special.—For the purpose of conducting a special hearing in the litigation against the Whitney Power Company, of Pittsburgh, owners of the big electric and water-power plant being developed at the Narrows, on the Yadkin River, near Salisbury, A. H. Price, of this city, went to New York Thursday. Hon. John S. Henderson, receiver of the \$10,000,000 concern, and Burton Craig, also of this city, are also in New York for the hearing, which, it is said, will last ten days. The principal issue in the cases arises over a claim of the contracting firm of T. A. Gillespie Company for a balance of about \$253,000 alleged to be due from the Whitney Company. It is believed here that all the differences will be adjusted and work resumed on the big plant.

In Trouble Again.

Raleigh, Special.—Fred Miller, the young man of good family who came into the limelight some months ago through being arrested and held in jail some time on suspicion of being connected with the murder of Dr. W. E. Smith, of Richmond, last November, is in trouble again, having been jailed on the charge of robbery. He is accused by Gordon N. Morgan.

Fate Uncertain.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Kitchin will make his order very soon as to whether former Sheriff Amon, of Sampson county, shall serve his six years' sentence for embezzlement of county funds in the penitentiary or on the roads of Sampson county. Friends of the prisoner are urging that he be allowed to remain in Sampson and serve on the roads. The carrying out of the sentence to the State's prison has been suspended several weeks, in order that the Governor might have opportunity to look into the merits of the appeal for change of sentence.

His Eye Removed.

Salisbury, Special.—As a result of the explosion of a powder magazine at the Southern Railway shops at Spencer last October, an operation was performed Wednesday upon Fred Loftin, of Salisbury, one of his eyes being removed. A piece of steel was found behind the eye, and the other member is said to be severely injured. Mr. Loftin is the last victim of the explosion to be dismissed from a hospital here.

Wounded Negro Dies.

Fayetteville, Special.—Robinson Elliott, negro, who was shot while resisting arrest, by Deputy Sheriff Godwin, Sunday, died from injuries Tuesday night, after amputation of his wounded leg. When shot, Elliott was engaged in a hand-to-hand fight with the deputy while his daughter was attempting to place a shotgun in his hand. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict of self-defense.

Cloer's Victims Increase.

Statesville, Special.—Additional charges against the Cloer brothers Robert and Joe Cloer, the noted check cashers who are in jail here awaiting trial, continue to pile up and it is probable that the number of their victims will never be known. There are probably many victims who know that the Cloers are now in jail, but they don't care to let it be known that they cashed bogus checks because the telling will not bring back their money, and few of us are anxious to let it be known that we have been taken in or worked by a sharp. This is preliminary to saying that Mr. R. F. Burton, cashier of a bank at Marion, was shown a photograph of Robert Cloer—the one who operated most extensively—the other day and recognized him as the man who passed a forged check on the Marion bank. This is the first case to turn up from the Marion section.

Pitt County Teachers.

Greenville, Special.—Pitt county has a teachers' association that ranks with the best in the State. It has a membership considerably above one hundred, holds meetings once a month and is attended by practically all the public school teachers in the county. Through the efforts of the association, led by the county superintendent of schools, Prof. W. H. Ragsdale, educational interest has reached a high pitch over the entire county. In addition to the splendid programme participated in by various teachers of the county, a prominent educator from different colleges in the State is secured to address each meeting of the association. The address at the meeting last Saturday was by Prof. J. Henry Highsmith, of Wake Forest College, and is pronounced one of the best the association has ever heard.

State Officers' Club.

Raleigh, Special.—The North Carolina State officers are organizing themselves into a social club with a limited number of outside members, the indications being that the organization will come to be quite a feature of interest in Raleigh. The entire Woman's Club building, west of Capitol Square, has been leased, except the assembly room, which the women will retain for meeting purposes. It has been a matter of dissatisfaction for some time among the State officers that they had no place where they could come together in a social way and exchange views without the formalities of some official session or conference. To Hon. B. F. Dixson State auditor, is due the credit for having hit upon a solution of the difficulty in conceiving the formation of the club.

Many Want Jobs.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Kitchin says he is receiving many letters from people in various parts of the State asking to be appointed as inspectors of illuminating oils under the operation of the act passed by the recent Legislature providing an inspection system for North Carolina, provision being made for ten inspectors, one for each congressional district, the pay for each not to exceed \$1,000 per year. The Governor says, however, that he finds that the appointments are not to be made by him, but by the State Department of Agriculture. The act becomes operative July 1, and will necessitate the testing of all illuminating oils offered for sale in the State, the inspector's tag of approval being necessary on every package of oil before it can be offered for sale at retail.

Pasture Treatment Successful.

Statesville, Special.—Mr. Fred Abernathy, who was bitten by a rabid dog two or three weeks ago and went to Raleigh to take the Pasteur treatment for hydrophobia, passed through Statesville Monday evening en route to his home at Oak Forest. He can now rest assured of no further ill effects as a result of his experience with the mad dog.

Special Tax For Schools.

Raleigh, Special.—The election for special tax of 15 cents on the \$1,000 of valuation and 45 cents on the poll to maintain the schools of Raleigh township for nine months, in place of six, was Tuesday won by the schools, which polled 1,154 votes out of 1,849 registered. The opposition voted only 345. The deficiency in funds was caused by the voting out of the liquor dispensary and for two years the schools have had only a six months' term. The increase applies to next year's terms, as the schools are now closed.

UNITED STATES CENSUS REPORT ON THE COTTON CROP

Washington, Special.—Running bales of cotton numbering 13,498,841, of average gross weight of 505 pounds, all equivalent to 13,563,942 500-pound bales, with 27,587 ginneries operating, was the final report of the census bureau Saturday on the cotton crop grown in 1908.

The report included 344,970 lintners and counts round as half bales. The final 1907 crop report was 11,325,882 pounds, equivalent to 11,375,461 500-pound bales with 27,597 ginneries operating.

Included in the 1908 figures are 93,085 bales, which the ginneries estimated they would turn out after the time of the March canvass.

Round bales in the report are 340,450 bales. Sea island bales included are 93,848 for 1908 and \$6,985 for 1907.

The House Passes Amended Census and Health Bills

Washington, Special.—In its amended form the House took Thursday for consideration the bill providing for the taking of the next census. The bill was passed at the last session, but was vetoed by the President because of his objections to the provisions which took away from the Civil Service Commission the power of appointment of the clerks. An amendment by Mr. Sterling (Ills.)

DECLARE ALCOHOL IS BEING ELIMINATED.

Washington, Special.—Alcohol practically has no therapeutic uses, judging from the discussion at the semi-annual meeting here Thursday of the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and Other Drug Narcotics. Some of the medical scientists contended that alcohol has no therapeutic uses; others that on the whole it has few such uses, while another declared that alcohol gradually is being eliminated as a drug. Papers were read by Drs. Henry O. Marey, of Boston, honorary president of the society, entitled, "A

Verdict a Surprise.

The verdict, coming as it did upon the heels of Foreman Burke's declaration Friday that "we are hopelessly tied up as to the Coopers," was a decided surprise. The defendants took it coldly—almost without emotion. In a second after Judge Hart ceased dismissing the jurors, Judge Anderson, of the defense, was on his feet exclaiming: "Your honor, we move that the case be declared a mistrial because of the verdict Friday we contended that Friday's verdict was the only one, and that it acquitted John Sharp but declared a disagreement on the other defendants. We also ask that the defendants be admitted to bond at once."

A Bailable Case.

"The verdict of the jury makes it a bailable case," was the court's remark. "Hence I will fix the bond of each defendant at \$25,000 unless there be some objection. In that event I will hear arguments." "It is satisfactory to us," said Attorney General McGarr. "And to us," replied Judge Anderson. "There seems nothing left for the court to pass sentence," added Judge Hart. "I do not think that necessary," said Judge Anderson. "We move that judgment be suspended and that we be given a new trial. We will be prepared to argue the motion later—probably next week."

How the Jury Voted.

The jurors were not inclined to talk but one of them said:

"On the first ballot we acquitted John Sharp and disregarded the conspiracy theory. On this same ballot we stood six for guilty of murder in the first degree with mitigating circumstances, five for murder in the second degree with 20 years, the maximum penalty and one for acquittal. The ballots all day Wednesday and Thursday showed the same result. Friday the man who voted for acquittal came over to murder in the second degree but demanded that only 10 years be assessed. The rest of us did not deem ten years as anything like adequate, so we disagreed again. Of course, all this refers to the Coopers, not Sharp, whom we had acquitted. Early Saturday morning the man who was holding out for 10 years agreed to 20 years and the six who were voting for a first degree verdict agreed to this verdict."

LYNCHED AT ELKINS, W. VA., FOR ASSAULTING OFFICER

Elkins, W. Va., Special.—Joseph Brown, said to have been an ex-convict, who Thursday evening shot and seriously wounded Chief of Police Scott White, at Whitmere, near here, was taken from jail by a crowd of men at 1:30 Friday morning and lynched. Brown was hanged upon a telegraph pole. Thursday evening White, who is a son of Mayor Whitenington White, of Whitmere, was

Medical Study of the Temperance Movement in the South.

Howard A. Kelly, of Baltimore, on "The Alcohol Problem in Every-Day Life," T. D. Crothers, of Hartford, Conn. on "The Future of the Alcohol Problem," and W. B. Parks, of Atlanta, Ga., on "The Effects of Alcohol on Temperament as it Relates to Race and Nationality." The night's session developed much interest among the scientists as indicating the necessity for laws relating to the care and protection of inebriates.