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SNOW AND SLEET KILL EARLY COTTON AND FRUIT.

Blizzard of the Early Part of the Week Throughout the Southwest Produced the Worst Condition in 41 Years—More Than 90 Per Cent of the Crop is Ruined in Many Sections.

Charlotte Chronicle.

With a temperature below freezing in the greater part of Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and with sleet or snow in the greater part of the cotton region where any planting has been done, last night and today suffered a loss that will amount to millions and millions of dollars.

Associated Press dispatches from the region indicate that an enormous amount of cotton has been killed and, with the lack of seed preventing replanting, the crop will probably be curtailed from two to four million bales. Added to this loss is that of all the fruit, truck and other crops in the region affected.

The loss to the cotton growers in the region affected will probably amount to between \$250,000,000 and \$300,000,000. The loss to the fruit growers, truckers and growers of other crops that have been injured will run the total loss to Southern farmers up to between \$400,000,000 and a half a billion of dollars.

WARD APPOINTED TO SUCCEED GUION.

Judge of the Third Judicial District. First Term Begins May 2.

Raleigh News and Observer.

Governor Kitchin yesterday morning at 11 o'clock announced the appointment of Hon. D. L. Ward, of Newbern, as Judge of

the vacant position created by the resignation of Judge O. H. Guion. He was in the Senate of 1905 and was author of the Ward bill, which supplemented the Watts law, a temperance measure.

Col. Ward was on Gov. Glenn's personal staff until last October, when he resigned. He has for many years been enjoying a large and lucrative general law practice in Craven and adjoining counties. Every recommendation which reached the Governor from the counties of Craven, Pamlico, Jones and Carteret was a strong endorsement of Col. Ward for this position, while the county of Pitt was solid for Hon. H. W. Whedbee, and the county of Greene was solid for Hon. L. V. Morrill.

Each of the candidates received a great many endorsements from lawyers and other friends outside the third district in Eastern Carolina.

Judge Ward will hold his first court in Nash on Monday, 2d of May.

Judge Guion will return to the practice of the law with his two sons in Newbern, and his friends discountenance the report that he will run for Congress. As a judge he has made an enviable reputation. He holds his last court this week in Franklin county, at Louisburg.

Col. Ward is an able lawyer and has a splendid reputation in the North Carolina Bar Association. He has practiced law in Newbern fifteen years.

David L. Ward was born in Wilson county, October 24, 1860. He was educated at Wake Forest College, and on February 7, 1900, was married to Miss Louise Shollenburger, of Newbern. Since early youth Judge Ward has taken part in all political campaigns, and is one of the most effective public speakers in Eastern North Carolina.

Soon after graduating from college he secured his license to practice law and opened a law office first at Wilson, afterwards

settling in Newbern. In 1904 he was elected to the State Senate with 4,800 majority, and in the session of 1905 took a most prominent part in all important legislation. In presenting the Ward bill to the Senate he made one of the greatest speeches of the session.

MAY CUT REPRESENTATION.

Feared That the Census Will Reduce the Number of Congressmen to Nine.

Charlotte Observer.

Washington, April 23.—There is some doubt here as to whether or not North Carolina will have nine or ten Congressmen after the next census. It was by the smallest margin that the State got ten ten years ago, and, while cities have grown, some of the country districts have lost in population.

Every member of the North Carolina delegation was interested in a local story in The Observer of recent date concerning a plan to redistrict the State. It is believed that something along the line suggested will be done.

SOLOMON SHEPARD AGAIN.

Solomon Shepard, Slayer of Engineer Holt, Murderously Assaults Lewis Harris—Guard Fells Him With His Billet.

Charlotte Observer.

Raleigh, April 23.—Solomon Shepard, the desperate negro convict serving 30 years for the murder of Engineer Holt of the Southern Railway at Durham, made a murderous assault on Lewis Harris, a fellow-convict, in the barber shop of the penitentiary this afternoon, cutting Harris' throat almost from ear to ear. "Barely missing" the jugular vein. Only the fact that a guard leaped from the top of a nearby cell and felled him with his billet, preventing murder.

Shepard had a grudge against Harris and threw a brick at him out in the brick yard a few days ago. Harris is rather simple. He was being shaved and Shepard snatched the razor from the barber without a word having passed.

Bad Negrass on Rampage.

Babe Baldwin, well, but by no means favorably, known in police circles and in the criminal courts of the county, was on one of her periodic rampages last Saturday night. If Babe had only been a man and had taken to baseball, she, or he, would have been a wonder as a pitcher, or at least such is the opinion of Dick Smith, the one-eyed individual who was, on this occasion, the object of her wrath. She can throw a brick or a beer bottle with a precision that never fails to create a sensation. She gave Dick a tremendous jolt over the head with a brick while he was standing in his door and a little later tried the strength of a bottle against his shoulder. And all this because Dick remonstrated with her for cursing too near the white folks' houses, so says Dick. And again the same night she broke out and sent a bottle crashing into a squad of negroes in the pool room in Bloodfield.

Babe is a terror, alright, and she has no fear of the jail, it seems, for the length of time she has boarded there has had no influence for good on her. The officers have not been able to come up with her yet and if they are never able to find her in Laurinburg again, the town will have a cause for congratulation.

If you would please your neighbor, say less than you think.

The man who trades a load of trouble for a load of cheap whiskey, makes a poor exchange.

NEGRO KILLED IN WILLIAMSON.

Henry Crosland, Colored, Shot and Killed by O. K. Medlin, a White Man, Saturday Afternoon—No Cause Known.

Late Saturday afternoon on Messrs. J. A. and W. C. Fletcher's farm in lower Williamson township, Henry Crosland was shot and killed by O. K. Medlin, a white man employed on the same plantation. Medlin used his Winchester rifle and shot the negro while the negro was sitting in his buggy. Nothing can be learned of the facts leading up to the killing and the evidence brought out at the coroner's inquest which was held Sunday is very meagre beyond the statements made by the negro himself to his wife and one or two others after he was shot. He died Saturday night after having been shot a few hours.

The wife of the deceased testified that her husband went to McColl with her Saturday morning and returned a little after twelve and went up to Medlin's to put up the mule and wagon. That he then hitched up his own mule to his buggy and he and Medlin came down to the negro's house, stopped, got out and sat down together at the colored man's table and ate dinner. While eating dinner, Crosland gave Medlin a glass of whiskey. After dinner they went back to Medlin's house and pretty soon Crosland returned in his buggy alone and made the statement that he was shot to death, that Medlin had shot him.

One of the witnesses testified that he heard the shot and in a few minutes Crosland came back to his home and made the statement that Medlin had shot him without any cause, that when they got up to Medlin's house, Medlin called to his wife to bring him his gun and thereupon shot him while sitting in his buggy. That they had engaged in no quarrel whatever and no words had passed between them. The gun used was a Winchester rifle.

Coroner Jordan went to the scene of the homicide Saturday night immediately after learning of the occurrence. Deputy Sheriff Smith accompanied him. Medlin had left the country, however, and could not be found. The inquest was held Sunday morning with the following gentlemen composing the jury: Messrs. E. T. McColl, H. R. McGregor, Z. B. Gibson, R. L. Wright, S. S. Jackson and J. D. Locky. Three witnesses were examined from whom the evidence heretofore given was obtained. The verdict was that Crosland came to his death from a wound inflicted by a gun in the hands of O. K. Medlin.

The coroner and others who made an examination of the matter say that so far as they were able to get the facts, the killing was without any semblance of an excuse or reason. However, there may be another side to the matter which may come out if Medlin is apprehended.

Building at Gibson.

Mr. Z. V. Pate, a well-to-do merchant of Scotland county, is erecting a mammoth department store at Gibson, which will be 275 feet long and 75 feet wide, two-story, and will have the latest improvements. The North and South Carolina Railroad Co. has completed a siding to pass this store for the purpose of unloading cars of goods. Gibson is in a prosperous condition. It can already boast of one of the nicest drug stores in the State.—Pee Dee Advocate.

It's all right for a woman to have an open countenance, but she should occasionally shut it.

REAL LIVE WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

BY TAVENNER

Washington, April 27.—Senator Aldrich's announcement that he will not be a candidate for re-election is being regarded with increasing suspicion here in Washington as a manifest political trick.

It is doubtful if a single one of the genuine progressive Republicans really believes that the Rhode Island boss intends to relinquish his control of legislation a moment sooner than he has to. Even a few "regulars" have privately expressed the belief that Aldrich might consent to a re-election, basing this conclusion upon what they characterized as the "enormous pressure" which will no doubt be brought upon Aldrich to cause him to change his mind.

Because of his record of underhandedness and trickery in dealing with the Senate and the public, everything Senator Aldrich does or says should be carefully analyzed before accepted on its face value.

Aldrich does not say anywhere that he will not accept a re-election. He says he will not be a "candidate." It would be no surprise to Senators who know Aldrich if the words, "I am not a 'candidate' for re-election" should turn out after the fall congressional elections to have been but another of his famous "jokers," with which the Payne-Aldrich tariff law is overloaded.

The corporation interests served by Aldrich can best maintain the excessive tariff rates, which give them monopolies on American markets and make it possible for them to collect enormous sums for an investigation by Congress, was smothered to death. Mr. Martin has now introduced a second resolution. He alleges that the sugar trust has been allowed to acquire 55,000 acres of the richest sugar lands in the Philippines, and that the validity of this transaction is open to most serious question, in view of the fact that the law of the Philippines expressly declares that not more than 2,500 acres of land shall be sold to any single corporation. Sanction was given to the transaction in question by Attorney General Wickersham, who was a former member of the New York sugar trust law firm of Strong & Cadwalader, which firm Mr. Martin declares was directly concerned with the alleged illegal sale. President Taft's brother is still a member of the firm. Whether the President can much longer prevent a sweeping investigation of the entire scandal is extremely doubtful.

What move on Aldrich's part could relieve the Republicans of so heavy a responsibility in the approaching congressional elections as the announcement of his retirement? Realizing that his long representation of Big Business has earned for him the enmity of the American people, and that his name is to be one of the main issues in the fall campaign, it is but giving due credit to Aldrich's resourcefulness to assume he figured it out he could not serve the special interests better at this time than to announce his retirement, if such an announcement would help the Republican party over dangerous shoals.

Aldrich is taking no chances in announcing that he will not again be a candidate. He can change his mind easily, or he can have re-election "forced" upon him. Should the next House be Democratic, however, Aldrich might not care to come back to the Senate, for it would then be obvious that he could put through none of his own peculiar style of legislation.

The ship subsidy bill is beaten so far as this session of Congress is concerned. It goes to destruction on the rocks of scandal. The Merchant Marine League, the organization which is backing the bill providing for the annual payment of \$5,000,000 of public funds to a few private ship owners, is being exposed before a special investigating committee of Congress as being backed by men who would profit directly or indirectly through the passage of the proposed legislation. These men, most of whom are millionaires, have contributed to the funds of the league, and the funds have been used in turn to attack and terrify members of Congress opposed to the sub-

sidy grab. Although officers of the league testified, contributors to the league treasury were interested in the passage of a ship subsidy bill merely as American patriots anxious to see the merchant marine built up, a cross examination of the very witnesses who made such assertions brought out the fact that two of the vice-presidents of the league were directors of the steel trust, and that another vice-president was the general manager of a Newport News, Va., ship-building company, concerns which might easily profit through the opening of the pork barrel by the passage of a ship subsidy measure.

† † †
"The Democrats are nearer to electing a President of the United States than they have been since 1892," says Gov. Claude A. Swanson, of Virginia, who recently completed a tour that extended to the Pacific coast. "Not in years have the Democrats shown so much activity, so much desire to shake off lethargy, to hold harmony banquets and to get together, as is manifested in all sections of the country at this time. With such a spirit pervading the leaders and the rank and file of Democracy, taken together with the dissent among Republicans, I can see no other result than a Democratic House and Democratic President in 1913."

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President Taft still refuses to relent in his opposition to a Congressional investigation of either the sugar under-weighting frauds or the sale by the government of valuable sugar lands in the sugar trust. The first resolution introduced by Representative John

for an investigation by Congress, was smothered to death. Mr. Martin has now introduced a second resolution. He alleges that the sugar trust has been allowed to acquire 55,000 acres of the richest sugar lands in the Philippines, and that the validity of this transaction is open to most serious question, in view of the fact that the law of the Philippines expressly declares that not more than 2,500 acres of land shall be sold to any single corporation. Sanction was given to the transaction in question by Attorney General Wickersham, who was a former member of the New York sugar trust law firm of Strong & Cadwalader, which firm Mr. Martin declares was directly concerned with the alleged illegal sale. President Taft's brother is still a member of the firm. Whether the President can much longer prevent a sweeping investigation of the entire scandal is extremely doubtful.

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Offices of standpat Republicans resemble mail order houses these days. To head-off impending defeat, the standpatters are burdening the mails with millions of packages of garden seeds, farmers' bulletins, maps, speeches horse doctor books. Not a few of the regulars are uneasy as a result of the recent election in the Thirty-second New York district, in which Havens, the Democratic candidate, changed the 1908 Republican plurality of 10,167 into a Democratic plurality of 5,831.

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Maxton Residence Destroyed by Fire.

Charlotte Observer.

Maxton, April 22.—About 4 o'clock this morning the home of Mr. W. Chalmers Currie in the northern edge of town was discovered in flames and before assistance could arrive the fire was beyond control. The family had only time to get out of the burning building and remove a small part of the furniture. It is supposed to have caught from a defective stove flue.

SHOOTING AT ROCKINGHAM.

Will Meacham Shoots and Dangerously Wounds Cleve Ingram.

Charlotte Observer.

Rockingham, April 23.—Will Meacham, colored, tonight about 9 o'clock shot and probably fatally injured Cleve Ingram, also colored, in the yard of Albert Rankin.

Ingram was under the influence of liquor and when he appeared at the home of Rankin began cursing. Meacham went out into the yard and told Ingram that he ought to be ashamed of himself for using such language in the presence of a man's wife. Ingram, with an oath, replied: "What you got to do with it? I have been wanting a chance to kill you; you've got my woman." Whereupon Meacham drew his pistol and fired upon Ingram, the ball taking effect in the abdomen. Meacham made his escape.

MR. W. L. PEELE DEAD.

A Prominent Citizen of Snead's Grove Community Drops Dead Saturday.

Mr. W. L. Peele, a prominent and much respected citizen of the Snead's Grove community, died suddenly last Saturday afternoon while cutting down a tree near his home. He was engaged in hiving a swarm of bees and was cutting down a tree in which they had pitched, when his wife saw him last, before his death. He succeeded in cutting down the tree and it is thought that he dropped dead immediately afterward. He was found at that place soon afterward, and he was then dead.

The remains were interred at a Peele graveyard near Gibson Watkins, pastor of the deceased, of Laurel Hill, officiated.

Mr. Peele was a son of the late William Peele, who resided near Gibson. He was one of a large number of children. He was born on the 26th day of September, 1858, at the old home place between Gibson and Boykin church, became a member of Boykin Methodist church at the age of 17 and lived a consecrated Christian life until the end. He was at the time of his death, a member of Snead's Grove Methodist church.

He was one of the most prominent citizens of his community, a good citizen, successful farmer, active and consecrated Christian and was loved and respected by all his neighbors.

Country Bankers Convention.

The Executive Committee of the Country Bankers Association has met and decided upon Rockingham as the place and May 19th and 20th as the time for holding the Country Bankers Convention. That Rockingham is making ready for the entertainment of her guests on this occasion, can be seen from the following copied from the Post:

For the coming fourth annual convention of the Country Bankers Association to be held in Rockingham Thursday and Friday, May 19th and 20th, the following gentlemen have been appointed chairmen of the various committees:

Finance, Claude Gore; Reception, W. L. Parsons; Entertainment, Robt. L. Steele; Program, W. L. Scales; Invitation, M. W. McRae; Banquet, Jno. W. Covington; Transportation, H. C. Parsons; Music, E. H. Aycock; Ladies, W. C. Nichols.

Among those attending the Rockingham District Conference in Rockingham this week are Rev. N. H. D. Wilson and Messrs. R. R. Couington, T. J. Gill, Rowland Covington and perhaps others.