

THE CHRONICLE

THE FLOWERS COLLECTION

VOLUME IX NO. 86

CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1917

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY

THREE COWBOYS WERE MURDERED

Washington, Feb. 15.—Unofficial reports to the state department tonight said that the bodies of three American Mormon cowboys had been found mutilated on the Mexican side of the border near El Paso. Counselor Polk, who received the despatches said that the department had no official report on the matter.

The three cowboys referred to were Andy Peterson, Burt Jensen and an unnamed Mormon, sent from Camuello Wells to Corner Ranch on the border on Monday. Lem Spillsbury, foreman of the ranch seeking the men discovered that the ranch house had been broken into and found tracks leading to the border. The report that the three men were missing, probably kidnapped, was forwarded to the war department yesterday.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 15.—The bodies of three cowboys all believed here to be American citizens were found one mile south of the international boundary line sixty-five miles from Hatchita, N. M., according to a telegram received here tonight. The cowboys were captured by Mexican bandits in the raid on the Corner Ranch last Monday. The body of one of the men was horribly mutilated.

The victims of the latest outrage on the American border are:

A. P. Peterson, Jr. Burton Jensen, Hugh Acord.

All three of the men were married and Peterson is the father of seven children. All were Mormons.

News of the outrage came in a message from Lem Spillsbury who was one of the Mexican scouts with General Pershing's expedition. He telegraphed to the father of Peterson one of the slain men who came here to plead with General Pershing and state department officials for permission to organize a band of cowboys to go in search of his son and the other captured men.

Spillsbury's message stated that searchers found Jensen's body first. His body indicated that the cowboy's head had been beaten and crushed in with a rifle butt after which his body had beeniddled with bullets. Near by were found the bodies of Peterson and Acord.

At a late hour tonight no steps had been taken by military officials here at Hatchita or Deming, N. M., to send troops across the border in pursuit of the bandits. The cowboys divided into small parties and crossed the border today to hunt for the three slain men. For Buck Spencer, Mexican half-breed, reported to have been sent to the border by General Salazar to raise a ransom of \$5,000 while his wife was held as a hostage. According to other dispatches from Hatchita, it is feared Spencer fell into the hands of the Corner Ranch raiders and also was slain.

Federal officials asserted here tonight that Jensen and Peterson were Mexican citizens under the terms of the settlement of Colonia Bublun by American Mormons. All three came here when General Pershing's expedition was withdrawn.

Bishop Hest of El Paso and one of the most prominent Mormons in the southwest and the three men by intermittent residence in the United States during the last few years had retained their American citizenship.

Government officials are trying tonight to clear up the question of citizenship.

Carranza and Villista leaders in El Paso sought to place the blame for the massacre on the shoulders of their foes. The Villistas men declared the massacre was a plot by Carranza officials to prevent the United States from recognizing Villa as a belligerent.

Prudencio Miranda, at one time a civil officer at Ascension was credited with being the leader of the raiders. Villistas here denied that he is affiliated with "Pancho Villa."

Two Mexican employes were killed in a raid on Mrs. Rhoebe A. Hearst's ranch at Madras according to private despatches received here tonight. The despatches say that the raid was made by Villa bandits under Julio Acosta. Madras is the site of the Pearson firm's large lumber interest in Mexico. Stores were looted and many buildings were burned according to the message.

COLDEST IN CLEVELAND

SINCE FEBRUARY, 1883
Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 12.—The thermometer registered 10 degrees below zero here this forenoon.

It was the coldest day since February 10, 1883, when the temperature dropped to 10 degrees below zero.

There will be preaching at Rocky Ridge and Biggs Chapel next Sunday as usual.

GERMANY NOW NEAR TO STARVATION POINT

Rotterdam, Monday, February 12.—London, Feb. 13.—Two American who have reached Rotterdam since the break in diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States although in both cases their passports had been applied for before the rupture gave similar accounts of presents conditions in Germany to the Associated Press today.

One of these men came from Berlin the other from Frankfurt. Each had been in Germany a little more than a year and in that time each man lost 30 pounds in weight.

Theodore Wurslin, an engineer of Jamaica, N. Y., said his experiences with working men in Berlin showed him that they were tired of war but nevertheless determined to hold on to food and they are thus better off than usually all of which they spend for persons higher in the social scale. Mr. Wurslin said he often saw groups of British, French and Russian war prisoners especially Russians, sweeping the streets carting goods and performing other labor.

He said they were never molested or insulted. Of Mr. Wurslin's 10 Americans associated about half had decided to remain in Germany what ever happened.

DEATH OF MR. G. A. BLUME.

At his home on South Union street Wednesday morning at 4:45 o'clock occurred the death of Gustavus A. Blume, following an acute attack of pneumonia. Mr. Blume was ill only four days and his death comes as a great shock to his family and friends.

In early manhood Mr. Blume served in the Spanish-American war and later was stationed in the Philippine Islands. He made a record for faithful service of which any soldier would be proud. When his service expired he returned to his home town and has since made his home here where he was greatly esteemed by all who knew him for his many fine traits of character. For a number of years he has held a position at the city post office and was an efficient and valued member of the postoffice force.

Mr. Blume was the second son of Mrs. William H. Blume of this city and had recently passed his 36th birthday. Seven years ago he was married to Miss Lilly Lyerly, of No. 8 township, who with three small daughters survives. He is also survived by his mother, three sisters and two brothers. Since his early youth Mr. Blume has been a faithful member of St. James Lutheran Church of this city. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. M. L. Stirewalt from his home Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock and the interment was at Oakwood cemetery.

URGES PASSAGE OF THE WEBB BILL

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Republican Association, through its President, Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr. today gave out the following statement at its Washington Headquarters:

"President Wilson urges the passage of the Webb bill, assuring our manufacturers that it will pave the way for exceptional profits. Secretary Redfield and Doctor Pratt urge American manufacturers to forget the domestic market and go out after trade in foreign territory. These same manufacturers are required to shoulder the risk of foreign investments and solve the problems incident thereto. The Administration loads on them a corporation and an income tax, and if they make over eight per cent they must pay an excess profits tax. If they go into foreign business they have no assurance of government support in case of trouble, and if, in spite of it all they make money, they are called robber barons, and accused of trying to drain this country into war that their coffers may be filled. Individual initiative certainly has no encouragement from the Democratic party under its present leadership."

COAL SHORTAGE FELT AS DETROIT SHIVERS

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 12.—The coldest weather in years and the worst coal shortage of the winter resulted in much suffering in Detroit today. Twelve degrees below zero was officially recorded in the heart of the city in the forenoon.

Suburbs and nearby cities reported from 12 to 22 degrees below zero.

COUNTY SCHOOL NEWS

County Examination March 31, Declaration and Notification Closed, March 23.

A preliminary contest in recitation and declamation will be held in each township of the county on Friday evening, March 23, 17, for the purpose of selecting speakers to represent said township in the final contest at the county commencement. Each township is entitled to one reciter and one declaimer. I trust that the teachers in each township will hold a meeting at an early date and arrange an interesting program.

The regular annual seventh grade examination for the county will be held at the City High School, Concord, N. C., on Saturday March 31st, and Saturday April 7th, from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. respectively. This building is furnished with single patent desks, well lighted and heated. The work will be in charge of Messrs. D. L. Bidmhour and R. A. Reid. These gentlemen will endeavor to give a fair examination and show every possible courtesy to each applicant. Each pupil's name will be examined and a card showing the grade on each subject will be mailed to the applicant. The names of those successfully passing the examination and entitled to the certificate will be published in the local papers on Monday preceding commencement. We believe that holding the examination at one central point will be more satisfactory to all concerned.

A meeting of the principals of the two-teacher schools will be held in the office of the County Superintendent on Saturday, February 24th at 10 a. m. In addition to the regular routine work, the following lessons will be discussed:

History of N. C. chapter 13 led by W. R. Sickle.

Writing, led by Miss Gertrude Marrelson.

Geography, chapter 37 led by E. E. Grant.

English, Book 11, pages 324-5, led by CO. Ritchie. (Write composition.)

Spelling 146, led by J. E. Dutton.

A meeting of principals of two-teacher schools will be held at the same place and date, except hour of meeting is 1 p. m. Teachers are expected to bring the books in the first and second grades.

Copies of the School System Textbook may be had at White-Hortons-Flowe Co. I am pleased to hear of the splendid work accomplished by the classes using this textbook, such as, home-made window curtains, preparing various articles of food, etc. However this book is used as a supplementary text and the success of the same depends upon the interest shown by the teacher.

D. E. LIPPARD Spst.

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SOUTH CAROLINA MAY BE REPRESENTED BY BLIND MAN

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 10.—Paul G. McCorkle, of Chester, who is blind, will probably represent the fifth South Carolina district in Congress from February 21, when the election will be held, until March 4 following.

Early returns from the Democratic primary today gave McCorkle 4,532 votes for the short term nomination, and his nearest opponent 433. The election will be to name a successor for the late D. E. Finley.

PREMIER BRIAND GIVES LUNCHEON FOR GERARD

Paris, Feb. 18.—James W. Gerard, the former American ambassador to Germany, was the guest of honor at a luncheon given at the foreign office by Premier Briand today. A distinguished company was present including diplomatic representatives of the entente powers.

Mr. Gerard was accompanied by the American ambassador to France, William Graves Sharp, and both were recipients of many marks of cordiality.

Mr. Gerard carefully avoided anything in the nature of a speech of an expression of political views.

Ambassador and Mrs. Gerard and Ambassador and Mrs. Sharp later attended a performance at the Theatre.

President Poincare was represented at the performance by Colonel Beaud and the minister of war by Captain Echter.

EVERY HOME SHOULD HAVE A GARDEN. WHY?

To grow your fruits and vegetables is because it will lessen cost of Living—Fresher—Better—Cleaner—Greater Variety—Always handy. You'll Like Them Better. If Not grown, you Won't Have Them.

Plant the Garden, have it long—Cultivate with horse. Grow Early and late Varieties. Preserve Surplus for Winter. More Gardens Means Less Meats—Better Health.

Have around the sides and ends of the garden fruit trees and Berry bushes. Have the garden long so that you can cultivate it with a horse or mule. Don't just have a little square patch that you will neglect to care for. Cultivate the garden the same as the cotton grower cultivates his cotton. It will pay you mightily better for the work done in it. The same amount of hoeing to keep the cotton clean will keep the garden clean.

Select early and late cabbage, carrots, sweet corn, turnips, etc. Radishes lettuce, and some of the short-lived vegetables can be planted at different seasons so there will be a continuous supply. When these vegetables mature, CAN the surplus for winter use. A good garden at every home in the South will do more for her people than any other one thing. It means one-third of the living.

If you don't know the best variety to plant, write the Professor of Horticulture at your Agricultural College. He doubtless will furnish you a list well adapted to your locality.

A list of vegetables for the Home Garden will be given the PAPER'S near the middle of each month that should be planted the following month. The one for March will be ready in a few days. R. D. GOODMAN County Agent.

The Proposed Army Bill

That the democrats are meeting with much opposition in their own party on the proposed appropriation is seen in the fact that business men all over the country are protesting against proposed legislation to raise the normal tariff on wool.

The army and navy bills for millions, and many who are not in favor of the big Preparedness programme protest. But if we are going to be prepared if will take money and millions of money. So the only thing to do is find ways that means to raise the money. So far we have been using ourselves planting the late seed from the well to do eventually there will be an increase tariff. There will be no free list and when that happens when the democrats admit they must have money from other sources than those now used a higher protective tariff will be the result. A protectionist who talks protection when a campaign is on is accused of being a republican. But it is being demonstrated that hundreds of thousands of democrats are in favor of a protective tariff, because they are in favor of a protective tariff because they see it is the only way to get the necessary money to run things—Everything wessai succignin, stadin shridu chr

USING FISH ON CROPS

Editor Rurallist—I would like to ask your advice on using fish for fertilizer. I can get all the fish I need for hauling them. I want to put an acre to Irish potatoes and want to use fish for fertilizer. Would fish do to put around orange trees, and how should I use them to the best advantage? G. M. ARIE Oviado, Fla.

Reply—Fish alone will not make complete satisfactory fertilizer for your potatoes. The result would be vines with few potatoes. You should supplement it with wood ashes. First put on 1000 pounds of wood ashes to the acre, broadcasting them on, and turning them in. Then use 1500 pounds of fish to the acre shortly before planting, under the hills or furrows.

You can always use fish to the best advantage by putting them on shortly before the crop is planted and putting them in the hill or furrow.

Fish scrap will not do to get around orange trees. Used in excess, soil becomes over saturated and will cause dieback. Orange trees require their fertilizer in a commercial and finely divided form. Fish scrap bearing trees requires more patch than anything else, and as fish scrap contains none of this important element, it is decidedly useless to them. Better get a regular commercial fertilizer for your trees and use the fish for your truck and field crops.

There will be skating at the skating every Monday and Friday nights. Admission 10c for the benefit of the Boy Scouts.

GEN. FUNSTON IS STRICKEN UNTO DEATH IN HOTEL

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 19.—Major Gen. Frederick Funston, commander of the southern department of the United States army since February, 1915, died suddenly at a hotel here tonight a few minutes after he had finished dinner. He collapsed while seated in the lobby of the hotel talking to friends and was playing with little Inez Silverberg, of Des Moines Ia., a guest with her parents at the hotel, when he fell unconscious.

Death was almost instantaneous.

General Funston was 51 years old.

Ever since March, 1914, when he was placed in command of all United States forces on the Mexican border, General Funston had worked at an unusual pace. At critical times in border developments he frequently remained on duty 20 hours of the 24. The handling of regulars disposed of at various stations on the border, the Pershing expedition, and, of late, rearrangement of regular troops while providing for the return of national guardsmen have entailed an enormous amount of detail work, probably exceeding that which fell to any commanding general of the United States since the Civil War.

Only today General Funston completed orders for return of the last of the guardsmen. Because of the amount of work which fallen to him, General Funston's only recreation or relaxation for nearly a year has been an occasional dinner with a few friends.

Only recently General Funston returned from an inspection trip which took him as far as Nogales, Ariz. That with one trip to Brownsville, Tex., and a brief visit to Austin, Tex., last year, were the only occasions when he has been absent from his desk since the border trouble developed.

Two weeks ago General Funston suffered an attack of indigestion. To use his own expression, "I found it out alone." Later he placed himself under the care of Lieut. Col. M. W. Ireland, of the medical corps, southern department, and regained normal health and spirits. "For three days," Colonel Ireland said tonight, "General Funston had been entirely well."

Nevertheless at dinner tonight General Funston was particularly abstemious and ate only sparingly of the simplest dishes.

Col. Malvern-Hill Barnum, General Funston's chief of staff, immediately notified the war department of General Funston's death. News also was dispatched to Mrs. Funston, who is visiting her father in California. No arrangements for General Funston's funeral have been made.

ORNAMENTAL GARDEN NOTES

Southern Rurallist.
By the middle of February all the planting of shrubs and trees should have been done. Plants may be set out later than this, but it is advisable to get them into the ground before this date.

Get the flower beds in shape for the spring planting. Use only the best rotted manure on the flower beds and about the shrubs. Scatter this manure on the beds and work into the ground in readiness for the plants that are to be set out and the seeds that are to be planted.

The seed catalogues are coming to hand. There is nothing quite so fascinating as to look them over and dream of the many wonderful flowers we are going to have next summer and fall. Many of us are doomed to disappointment, but still we can all have the fun of speculation and anticipation if not the realization. To realize the spring anticipations means constant work and attention all the time. Get the catalogues and begin to make out the seed list for the year get in the order early.

If any one is expecting to grow some plants at home for setting out doors this is the time to start the seed in boxes in the house. Get some woods earth and mix with a little sand for the soil in which to sow the seeds. Take a box four to six inches deep and twenty inches or so wide and fill with this soil. Sow the seed in rows and cover lightly, water and set in the kitchen or some like warm room for sprouting. When the little plants are three weeks to a month old transplant them into the rest of the box about two or three inches apart each way. They can easily grow here until planting time in the spring.

Buffalo Express—Somebody has suggested Mr. McAdoo as the next Democratic candidate for President. Why not the other son-in-law, Mr. Sayre. He appears to have much more admirable qualities.

HIGH COST OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Republican Publicity Association, through its President Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr., today gave out the following statement at its Washington Headquarters:

"The Trade Commission and the Department of Agriculture have estimated that they will require an appropriation of \$400,000 and six months to investigate and report upon the reasons for the high cost of living. Four hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money to spend for information which we will undertake to give the newspaper readers at a cost of less than four cents. If the Commission and Department of Agriculture spend that amount of money and time to investigate the subject, their report will be assumed up about as follows:

"The rapid increase in the cost of living in the United States in 1916 was due to the unprecedented demand from foreign countries for our products on account of the war. In return for our goods, European countries sent a flood of gold, which always inflates values.

"Part of the increase has been due to the high prices the war-time countries were willing to pay and part to the desire of American producers to take advantage of a scarcity and exact higher prices than the actual condition of supply and demand justified.

"As the outbreak of the war many persons who were under contract to supply goods at specified prices were compelled to purchase their materials at higher prices, and in order to protect themselves against further losses in the future, they advanced their own prices in anticipation of higher costs which they might be compelled to pay.

"Owing to the outbreak of the war thousands of foreign born laboring men returned to their native countries and our immigration labor was curtailed, with the result that there was a shortage of labor. Wages increased rapidly, adding to the cost of production and necessitating a higher price for the product.

"Prices have been advanced because of steadily increasing wages and decreased hours of labor.

"Responding to the demand for 'pure food,' manufacturers have been compelled to put up their products in smaller packages, hermetically sealed, thus adding to the cost of putting the commodity on the market and increasing the price to the consumer.

"There has been a steady drift of population toward the cities with the result that higher rents must be paid, better clothes must be worn, and more money spent on nearly all articles of consumption.

"The style of living among all classes of Americans has been raised with the natural increase in the incident thereto.

"We have thus summed up the factors which the Trade Commission and the Department of Agriculture will report after they have spent \$400,000 and six months' time investigating the high cost of living."

MRS. GEO. DEWEY SENDS HER APPRECIATION TO OVERMAN

Washington, Feb. 19.—Mrs. George Dewey today sent to Senator Overman, of North Carolina, a letter expressing her gratitude for resolutions adopted by the North Carolina general assembly voicing appreciation of Admiral Dewey's services to the nation. She enclosed a letter written by Admiral Dewey which showed that a North Carolinian, James G. Dobbin, once secretary of the navy, appointed Admiral Dewey an acting midshipman in the navy.

"I wish you and the people of the country to know," said Mrs. Dewey, "that my husband felt for the greatest secretary of the navy, Josephus Daniels, (also a North Carolinian), a sincere affection. Only a short time ago the admiral said:

"I have been in the navy 23 years and have served under many secretaries of the navy but Secretary Daniels is the best secretary we ever had, and has done more for the navy than any other. I am amazed by his knowledge of technical matters. As has studied profoundly and his opinion is found on close observation."

HIGH POINT MILITIAMAN IS DEAD AT HOME

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 18.—Lieut. William L. Armstrong, 33 of the 10th North Carolina infantry, died at the Fort Bliss hospital last night of pneumonia. His home was at High Point, N. C.